



CITY OF WATERTOWN

Department of Building Inspections

309 Lewis Ave S, PO Box 279

Watertown, MN 55388

Phone (952) 955-2681 – Fax (952) 955-2695

Fence Requirements

Fences not exceeding 6 feet in height are permitted in residential and agricultural districts. Fences not exceeding eight feet in height are permitted in commercial, business and industrial districts within the side or rear yard.

PERMITS:

A zoning permit is need for fences 6 feet and less. A building permit is needed for fences greater than 6 feet in height.

INSPECTIONS REQUIRED:

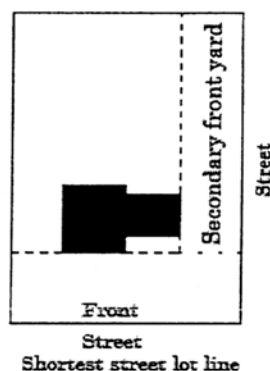
The following inspections must be requested:

- **Final:** Completed when the posts and part of fence may be erected.

LOCATIONS:

- Fences not exceeding three feet in height are permitted within the limits of any yard in all districts and must be ornamental in design. A fence can be located in the rear and side yards to a maximum height of six feet up to the point where it is parallel with the front edge of the house except in corner and double frontage lots. No fence or wall may be constructed which interferes with the sight triangle.
- Double frontage lots: In the case of double frontage lots with an arterial street forming the rear property line, fences may be permitted up to the property line in the secondary front yard, provided no landscaping buffer exists as part of the plat improvements. Such fences may be up to six feet in height. For double frontage lots backing to a street other than an arterial street, fences up to six feet in height may be permitted, provided a twenty foot setback is preserved in the secondary front yard, and no landscape buffer exists as part of the plat improvement.
- Corner lots: Fences exceeding three feet in height to a maximum of six feet in height are permitted in the secondary front yard provided a minimum setback equal to the principal structure or thirty feet is maintained, whichever is closer to the corner side property line.

Corner Lot



- No fence or wall shall be permitted on public rights-of-way or boulevard area.
- No fence or wall shall obstruct natural drainage or extend within a wetland, drainage ditch, or river.
- No fence shall be erected on a corner lot that will obstruct or impede the clear view of an intersection by approaching traffic.
- Fences may be constructed within public and private utility and drainage easements provided that the fence or wall cannot be located within a drainage or utility easement if there is a utility, either public or private, located within the easement. Removal of a fence or wall or a portion for the purpose of utilizing the easement shall be at the property owner's expense.
- Fences in excess of four feet in height shall be located a minimum of ten feet from the right-of-way of any alley.

REQUIRED INFORMATION FOR PERMIT ISSUANCE:

- Certificate of Survey (At the discretion of the City, the property owner may establish boundary lines by showing the stake markers of the surveyed lot. Applicant shall be required to physically identify the property corners for City inspection)
- Plot plan clearly describing the type, location, height, and method of anchoring the fence
- Boundary line fences need to be located entirely on private property unless the owners of the property of the adjoining properties agree, in writing, that such fence may be erected on the division line of the respective properties.

FENCE STANDARDS:

Referenced City Ordinance 355, Section 62-477

Design

- The side of the fence considered to be the face (finished side as opposed to structural supports) shall face abutting property.
- Fences shall be at least five percent open to provide space for the passage of air.

Materials

The following fence materials are prohibited:

- Electric fences
- Hog wire
- Chicken wire
- Sheep wire
- Barbed wire fencing
- Snow fencing (as permanent fencing)
- Use of slats of any kind is prohibited in or upon chain link fences