



Building Guide

Residential Fences

Frequently asked questions

Do I need a permit to build a fence?

The installation, relocation, or replacement of all fences in Seward requires a building permit. The fence permit fee is currently \$25.00.

Why are permits required?

Safety is the primary reason for requiring building permits. City inspectors check to make sure that the construction and installations are proper for the protection of your family and property, your neighbors, and buyers of your property.

Where can my fence be located on my property?

A fence must be located completely on your property. Remember, the property line is the beginning of your property as well as the adjacent neighbors. Your property starts at the inside of the property line. It is a good practice to set the fence inside your property lines, to insure rights of ownership. If you are not sure where to find your property lines, you can have a registered surveyor locate them for you. The City cannot locate property lines.

How high can my fence be built?

The maximum height allowed for a rear yard fence is six foot six inch (6' - 6") feet. However the panel height shall not exceed six (6) foot. The maximum height allowed for a front yard fence is four feet (4' - 0") feet.

I have a corner lot...are there any height restrictions?

Any fence located on a corner lot or adjacent to an alley way will need to maintain a site distance for vehicles. To insure safety and visibility, the maximum height in these areas is thirty (30) inches. Check with the Building Department for site distances.

Do I need to call Diggers Hotline?

Yes, you must call diggers hotline 48 hours in advance of any digging to have your underground cables located. 1-800-331-5666... It's free!

Are there any other restrictions I need to know about?

1. Fences shall not be erected or maintained which are constructed of barbed wire or charged with electricity.
2. Access shall be allowed for the maintenance of utility lines, poles, transformers, or manholes. Check with the Building Department for the needed clearances.
3. Fences may not be constructed within two (2) feet of any public sidewalk, or within one (1) foot of any alley.
4. The finished surface of the fence must face the adjoining property or street frontage.

Preparation checklist for the Building permit for your new fence.

Building Permit

- " The majority of permit applications are processed with little delay. The provided information will determine if the project is in compliance with building safety codes, zoning ordinances, and other applicable laws.
- " The Building department will need an estimated cost of the installation of your fence to issue the building permit.

General Information

- " For further important information, please contact the Building Department to learn more about the building requirements for your fence.

This Guide was developed by Seward Building Department as a basic plan submittal under the

2000 International Residential Building Code. It is not intended to cover all circumstances.