

Fence Regulations

NO PERMIT REQUIRED for fencing not exceeding 7' in height measured from grade to top of the fence.

SETBACKS: Fences may not be located closer than 3 feet to any publicly maintained right of way. No minimum setback required elsewhere.

HEIGHT: Front yard with standard fencing 4'. Front yard with ornamental fencing that is at least 50% open or transparent 6' Residential 8'. Commercial 12'. See website for permitting requirements.

FENCE MATERIAL: No chain link, electric, barbed wire, razor wire or plastic (snow) temporary fencing allowed.

PERMIT REQUIRED for all fencing exceeding 7' in height. See UDC Sec. 50-26.4 for Zoning requirements. See Minnesota State Building Code for building requirements.



City of Duluth

**Construction Services &
Inspections Division**
Room 210 – 411 W 1st Street
Duluth MN 55802-1194

Permitting: 218.730.5240

<http://www.duluthmn.gov/construction-services-inspections/>

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Fences

General Guidelines



City of Duluth

**Construction Services &
Inspections Division**

General Rules for Building Fences



Locating Property Lines

The first step in planning a fencing project is to determine your property boundary lines. Landmarks such as old fence lines, trees and light poles are **NOT** reliable benchmarks for finding property lines. The only absolute way to determine property boundaries is to locate survey pins or to have a new survey done. Remember that it is the responsibility of the property owner erecting the fence to know where their property boundaries are. A dispute as to the location of a property line is a civil matter between abutting land owners.

Designing your fence

There is a wide variety of fencing material on the market. You should consider your reason for wanting a fence. If you are looking for privacy, a wood fence may be your best option. Chain link fencing in a side or rear yard may be suitable to keep a pet in your yard, but retain openness to the neighborhood. Fencing may also be ornamental and be designed as a landscape feature in your yard.

**Remember to call before
you dig: 811**

(800) 252-1166 or
(651) 454-0002

<http://www.gopherstateonecall.org/>



In general, local zoning code prohibits the use of chain link fences, fencing which is electrically charged, fencing constructed of barbed wire or temporary plastic (snow fencing) in a **front yard** (the area from the principal structure to the front property line). In addition, the height of a fence in a front yard is restricted to 4' in height, measured from grade to the highest point of the fence.

Fences that are electrically charged and those constructed of barbed or razor wire are generally prohibited in side and rear yards. See Section 50-26.4 for more details.

Setbacks: Fences may not be located closer than 3' to any publicly maintained right of way. Please be certain of property line locations. Remember to allow room on both sides of the fence, so you are on your property, for future maintenance. Consider how snow removal may be impacted by the location of the fence and leave plenty of room for the city plow trucks along alleys and street lines.