

# Installing a Fence, Wall, or Hedge at Your Home

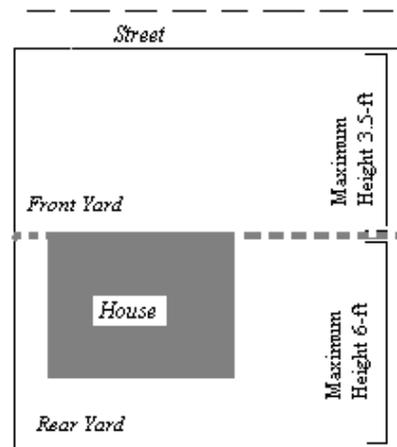
The requirements for fences, hedges and walls may be found in Chapter 17.54.100 of the Oregon City Municipal Code and Section 105.2 of the Oregon Residential Specialty Code.

### Height for Fences, Walls, Hedges, Retaining Walls and Berms Adjacent to a Right-of-Way:

Fences, walls, hedges, retaining walls and berms may be constructed in front of homes if they are no taller at any point than 3.5'. Fences, walls, hedges, retaining walls and berms may be constructed next to and behind homes if they are no taller at any point than 6'. Note that when building on a hillside, additional fences, walls, hedges, retaining walls or berms may be constructed if setback 2' from previous fence, wall, hedge, retaining wall or berm.

A fence/hedge/wall located in front of your home may be up to 3.5' in height at the highest point.

A fence/wall/hedge/retaining wall/berm located at the side and rear of your home may be up to 6' in height at the highest point.



### Height for Fences, Walls, Hedges, Retaining Walls and Berms on a Hillside which is NOT Adjacent to a Right-of-Way:

The maximum height of a retaining wall or berm is 8.5' including all fences, walls, hedges, retaining walls and berms within 2' of the retaining wall/berm. The included fence, hedge or wall on top of a retaining wall or berm may not exceed a height of 6'. Additional fences, walls, hedges, retaining walls and berms may be constructed if setback 2' from previous fence, wall, hedge, retaining wall or berm.



Maximum Combined Height of Fence/Wall/Hedge/Retaining Wall/Berm is 8.5', though the Fence/Wall/Hedge may be no taller than 6'.



Minimum Separation of 2' between Walls

**Setbacks:** The Planning Division does not require that your fence be setback from the property line. However, if your property located on the corner of two streets, it must comply with Chapter 10.32 of the Oregon City Municipal Code, Traffic Sight Obstructions.

**Overlay Districts:** Overlay zones protect the environment near a stream, steep slope, floodplain or historic structure. You may find out if you are within an overlay zone [www.orcity.org](http://www.orcity.org) by clicking on “Maps” then “Property Report”. The overlays are listed under “Land Use and Planning” on the Property Zoning Report. If a “Y” is marked, please contact the Planning Division at 503.722.3789 to verify if additional research is needed.

**Material:** The city does not regulate the material of fences unless the property is within the Canemah national registered historic district or an individually designated historic structure. This is identified under “Land Use and Planning” on the Property Zoning Report. If a “Y” is marked, please contact the Planning Division at 503.722.3789 to verify if additional research is needed.

**CC&R's, Easements and other Restrictions:** Past landowners may have placed private restrictions on your property. Check your title report or a trio report for your easements and restrictions and your neighborhood CC&R's if applicable.

**Property Lines:** A survey is the only way to be certain of your property boundary. The Clackamas County Surveyor's Office at <http://cmap.clackamas.us/> may have a copy of your subdivision plat or a survey available.

**Multi-Family/Commercial/Industrial Properties:** Additional review is needed by the Planning Division if the property is used for anything other than a single or two-family home. In addition, the maximum height of retaining walls and berms is 8' when not adjacent to the right-of-way.

**Permits and Fees:** A majority of fences do not require any permits. Building permits are needed for retaining walls which are greater than 4' in height or for any retaining wall that has a surcharge being imposed from a building; to ensure safe construction which complies with adopted standards.

A building permit application may be obtained at [www.orcity.org](http://www.orcity.org) or at our office located at 221 Molalla Avenue, Suite 200 from Monday – Friday between 8:30am and 3:30pm. The following is needed to be submitted:

- A completed building permit application
- Two (2) sets of detailed construction plans
- The contractor's name and state license (CCB) number if a contractor will be doing the work
- Oregon City or Metro business license number if a contractor will be doing the work
- The fair market value for the completed project (including materials and labor)

The Building Division may answer any questions regarding your project or provide an estimate of the permit fee. Please feel free to call us at 503.722.3789 to learn more. Depending on the quality and time of your submittal, the review process can range from over the counter to approximately one week. Once your plans have been reviewed by the City, you will be notified that your permit is ready. Once you pick up your approved permits from the City, you may begin construction.

*Please contact the Planning or Building Divisions at 503.722.3789 or visit our office at 221 Molalla Avenue, Suite 200, Oregon City, Monday - Friday from 8:30am to 3:30pm to learn more.*