

## Fences

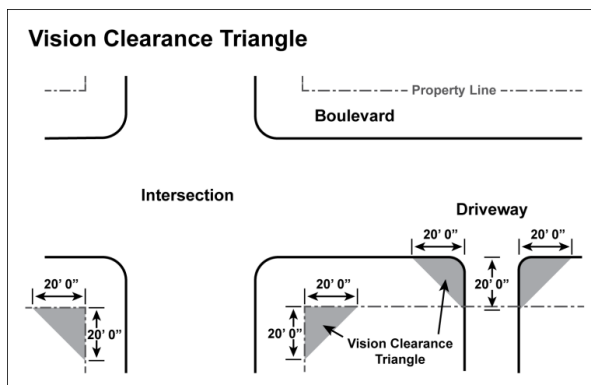
### FENCE PERMIT

A fence permit is required prior to the installation of any new fence or the complete replacement of a fence in the City of River Falls. The permit fee is \$50.00.

### FENCE LOCATION

Fences must be located entirely on the owner's property and must adhere to the following setbacks:

1. Fences may be placed up to the property line.
2. Fences over 3' tall that abut a street must be set back a minimum of 3 feet.
3. Fences near street or alley intersections must be set back to maintain a vision clearance triangle per Section 17.08.030 of City Code.
4. Fences must maintain a minimum 3 feet radius around all fire hydrants and utility boxes.



### UTILITY CLEARANCE

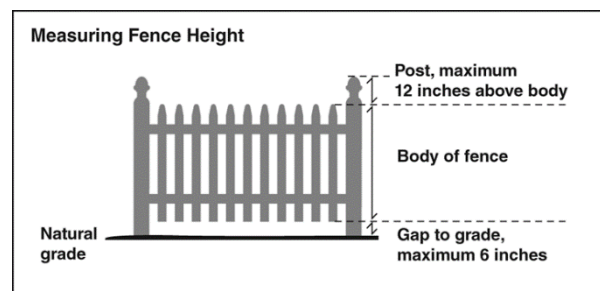
The property owner is responsible for verifying that no conflicts exist with utilities prior to installation of fencing. Call Digger's Hotline at (800) 242-8511 at least three working days prior to fence installation. Fences are not permitted in FEMA designated floodways. The City reserves the right to prohibit fences in most easements.

### FENCE HEIGHT

Fence height varies by zoning district and the location of the fence on a lot. Backyard fences may be taller than fences visible from the street. The following regulations apply to fence height.

Type of Yard	Maximum Fence Height	
		Nonresidential
Yard abutting street	3 feet	6 feet
Yard not abutting street	6 feet	10 feet

Fence height is measured to include the body of the fence, plus up to 6 inches (on average between posts) above the natural grade. Fence posts are permitted to extend a maximum of 12 inches above the body of the fence. If placed on a retaining wall, the fence height is measured from the ground elevation prior to grade modification.



**APPROVED MATERIALS**

Fences must be constructed of wood, metal, bricks, masonry, vinyl or other materials designed for permanent outdoor fencing. Wood fences must be constructed of cedar, redwood or other decay resistant wood.

**Prohibited Materials**

1. Chain link fencing in a front yard.
2. Fences constructed from snow fencing, plywood or materials originally intended for other purposes.
3. Above ground electric fencing.

**Exceptions**

1. Temporary fences made of chicken wire are only permitted for garden enclosures.
2. Temporary fence made of material designed to withstand wind loads is permitted for temporary construction or excavation fences.
3. Barbed wire or razor wire fencing is only permitted by special use permit and only if the proposed fence does not abut a residential zone.

**INSTALLATION**

All fence elements must be permanently installed and constructed in a professional manner to secure the fence in a vertically level position. Fences must be installed so that posts and lateral supports are not on the side of the fence facing an adjacent property or public right-of-way, unless exposed on both sides.

**MAINTENANCE**

All fences must be kept in good repair and appearance on both sides of the fence by its owner. Fences shall not be in a condition of disrepair or constitute a public or private nuisance. Peeling, flaking and chipped coating must be eliminated and surfaces recoated. The property owner is responsible for maintaining the area between the property line and the owner's fence.

**SWIMMING POOL SAFETY FENCES**

All swimming pools must be enclosed by a fence or wall at least 4 feet in height. The fences must have no openings, holes or gaps larger than 4 inches in diameter except for doors and gates. The fence shall be of a type not readily climbed by children. A dwelling or accessory building may be used as part of such enclosure. An above ground pool with a wall greater than 4 feet in height does not require a fence if the wall cannot be readily climbed by children. Above ground pools shall be protected in such a way that access ways are equipped with self-closing and self-latching gates or doors (including removal of ladders to pools when not in use) and are kept securely closed at all times when not in actual use.

**EXAMPLE SITE PLAN**

The following page illustrates an example site plan that must be submitted with your fence permit application. Please include fence location and measurements, property lines, and existing structures. More detail may be needed depending on the site.

**Example Site Plan:**

