

Article 9: Fencing, Walls, and Hedges

Section 9.01 Applicability

Fences, walls, and hedges may be permitted in all zoning districts in accordance with this section and [Section 7.01: Accessory Use Regulations](#).

Section 9.02 Zoning Certificate Required

The construction of fences and walls shall require the issuance of a zoning certificate. The planting of hedges shall not require a zoning certificate but shall be done in a manner that will comply with the location and height requirements of this section.

Section 9.03 Decorative Fencing

Small portions of fences, such as decorative fencing used for landscaping, that are not longer than 20 feet in length but which comply with the height, yard and maintenance requirements set forth in this subsection, shall not require a zoning certificate.

Section 9.04 Snow Fences

A snow fence or fence of similar type may be erected in any yard during the period from the first of November to the first of April for the sole purpose of preventing the drifting of snow on highways, driveways and sidewalks. Such fence shall not otherwise be used at any time as a temporary or permanent fence or enclosure. No zoning certificate shall be required for a snow fence.

Section 9.05 Retaining Walls

(A) An embankment to be retained on any lot that exceeds 48 inches high shall be benched so that no individual retaining wall exceeds a height of six feet except where the BZA determines that topography requires a wall of greater height, and each bench is a minimum width of 36 inches. See [Figure 9.05-1](#).

(B) Retaining walls over 48 inches, measured from the top of the footing to the top of the wall, are required to be designed and certified by a registered professional engineer licensed in Ohio. A copy of the signed construction drawing should be submitted with a zoning certificate application.

(C) In reviewing an application for a retaining wall, the Zoning Administrator may forward the application to the County Engineer for review and comment.



Figure 9.05-1: Retaining shall be benched, or terraced, so that no individual wall exceeds a height of six feet.

Section 9.06 Location and Height Standards

(A) FRONT YARDS

(1) Fences, walls, and hedges in any front yard shall not exceed a height of 48¹ inches, except as regulated in [Section 5.05\(B\)\(2\): Height Limit at Street Corners \(Traffic Safety Visibility Triangle\)](#).¹

(2) Barbed wire fencing shall be prohibited in the front yard. Masonry walls are permitted in the front yard provided the materials are decorative in nature and not cement block.

(3) See [Figure 9.06-1](#) for an illustration of where the maximum front yard height of fences applies to interior, corner, panhandle, and double frontage lots.

(B) SIDE AND REAR YARDS

(1) Fences and walls located in the side or rear yards shall not exceed a height of eight feet in residential zoning districts and ten feet in nonresidential zoning districts. In the industrial zoning districts, an additional height of two feet may be added to fencing for the purposes of adding barbed wire fencing (not in the front yard) for security purposes.

(2) See [Figure 9.06-1](#) for an illustration of where the maximum side and rear yard height of fences applies to interior, corner, panhandle, and double frontage lots.

¹ Effective 8/12/13

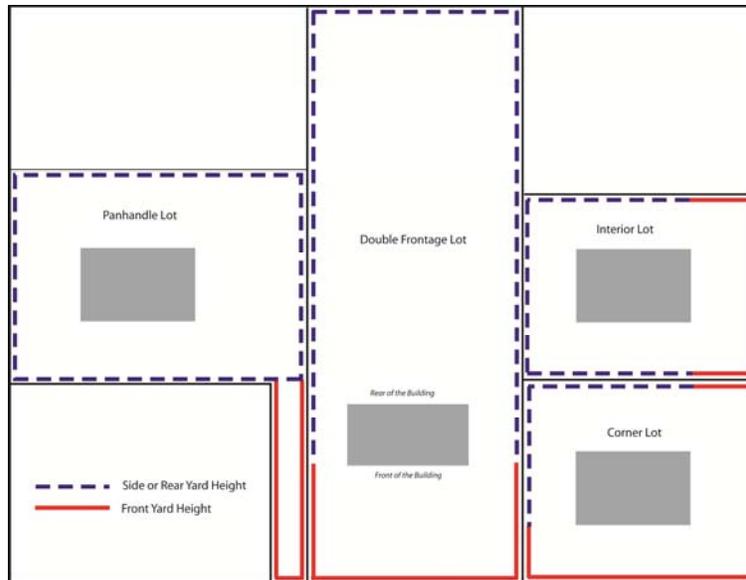


Figure 9.06-1: Yard locations related to the maximum fence height

(C) MEASUREMENT

Fence or wall height shall be measured from the lowest point within three feet on either side of the fence to the top most portion of the fence. See [Figure 9.06-2](#).

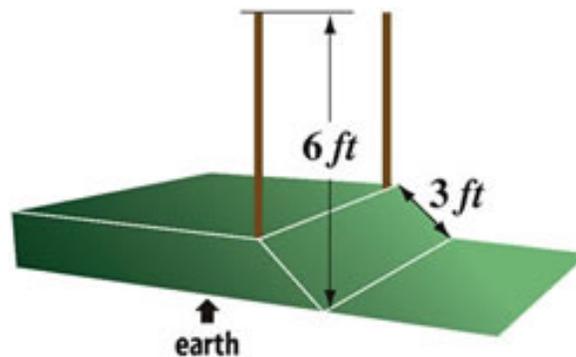


Figure 9.06-2: Fencing shall be measured from the lowest point within three feet on either side of the fence.

Section 9.07 Construction, Maintenance and Repair

(A) The height of a fence shall be measured from the average natural grade at the base of the fence or support structure to the tallest element of the fence. Fencing or walls should follow the natural contour of the land on which it is located. See [Figure 9.07-1](#).

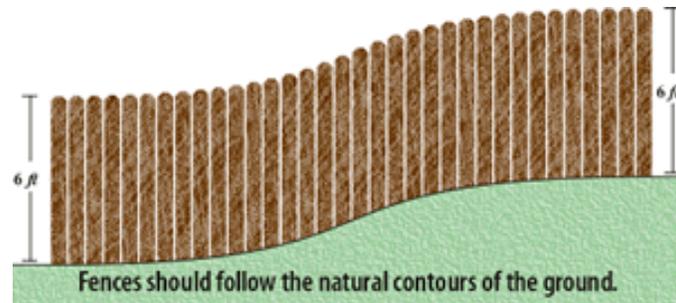


Figure 9.07-1: This illustrates how fencing is measured along a natural contour.

- (B)** No fence, wall or hedge shall be constructed and maintained so as to be hazardous to existing or future neighboring uses.
 - (C)** The smooth finished side of the fence or wall shall be the side of the fence that faces outward from the lot or yard being fenced.
 - (D)** When erected near a property or lot line, the entire fence and any of its supporting structures or appurtenances shall be contained within the lot or property of the person erecting or having erected said fence.
- All fences, walls and hedges shall be maintained in a neat and orderly manner.