Community Development Department
51 Winburn Way, Ashland OR 97520
541-488-5305 Fax 541-488-6006

Fence Construction Information

The construction or replacement of a fence requires a zoning permit through the Planning Division, but does not require a structural building permit from the Building Safety Division. The purpose of the permit is to verify the location, height and type of fence being installed.

Permits can be obtained at the Community Development building, located at 51 Winburn Way.

Fence permit applications must contain the following items:

- ☐ Site plan of the property with proposed fence locations and heights.
- ☐ Section drawing of the fence elevation to determine whether the fence meets the "good neighbor" fence requirement, which requires the framework of the fence to be on the inside (towards the property of the person installing the fence). Good neighbor fencing also includes fences that conceal or integrate the framework into the design. If deer fencing is proposed, a diagram showing support spacing and fencing materials (including mesh diameter) to determine the level of opacity.
- ☐ $28 permit fee

It is the responsibility of permit applicant to confirm property line locations and address any dispute that might be involved with the proposed fence. City of Ashland Public Works staff can provide right of way width information and determination of property lines, but in some instances the exact location of property lines may require that the applicant hire an Oregon-licensed surveyor.

Residential Standards
Ashland Municipal Code 18.68.010
Fences, walls, hedges and screen planting shall be subject to the following standards:

A. Height.
   1. In any required front yard, provided they do not exceed three and one-half (3 ½) feet in height.
   2. In any rear or side yard, provided they do not exceed six and one-half (6 ½) feet in height.
   3. The height of fences or walls in rear or sideyard setback areas abutting a public street shall be four (4) feet or less if said fences or walls are within ten (10) feet of any public street except an alley.
   4. The height of a fence is the vertical distance measured from the natural grade to the highest point of the fence, including the structural supports.
      a) Below-Grade Lots. On lots that are not generally level with the adjacent street, height may be measured from the top of the adjacent sidewalk or curb, or, where curbs are absent, from the crown of the adjacent street plus six inches.
      b) When fences are built on top of retaining walls, or one lot is markedly higher than an adjacent lot, height shall be measured from the highest adjacent grade, except that the solar access of adjacent properties to the north shall be maintained in accordance with AMC 18.70.

B. Construction.
   1. The framework for newly constructed fences and walls shall face toward the builder's property, except where fences are jointly constructed.
   2. Fences shall lean at an angle from the vertical plane no greater than five (5%) percent. In cases where this limitation is exceeded and a written complaint is received by the Planning Department, the property owner shall be notified, in writing, of the problem. The Planning Department shall take action only on the basis of a written complaint, or on its own action.

3. Fences shall not be constructed across any waterway or stream identified on the official maps adopted pursuant to Section 18.62.060. Fences shall not be constructed within any designated floodway. Fences within water resource protection zones shall be located and constructed in accordance with Section 18.63.060.B.3.

C. Materials
   1. The use of barbed wire, razor wire, electrified wire and similar security fencing materials shall be limited as follows:
      a) shall not be located adjacent to a sidewalk, a public way, or along the adjoining property line of another person;
      b) shall not be erected or maintained at less than six and a half (6½) feet above grade;
      c) may be located in commercial, employment or industrial lands if not visible from the public right of way, or with approval from the Community Development Director on properties deemed to be hazardous or in need of additional security.

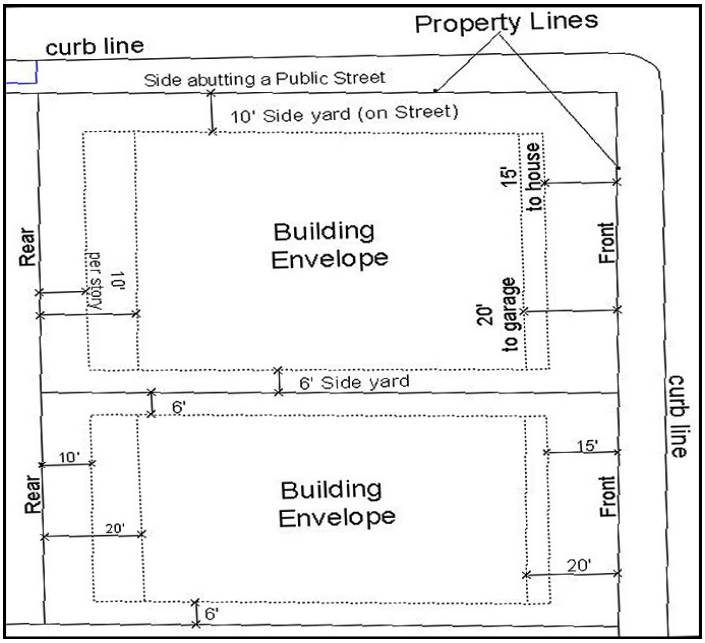
D. Deer Fencing
   1. Deer fencing may be attached to a permitted front, side, or rear yard fences provided the area in excess of the allowable fence heights per 18.68.010 is designed and constructed to provide a clear view through the fence.
      a) Within required front yards at least eighty five percent (85%) of the surface shall be unobstructed to both light and air when viewed perpendicular to the plane of the fence.
      b) Within required side and rear yards at least eighty percent (80%), of the surface shall be unobstructed to both light and air when viewed perpendicular to the plane of the fence.
   2. Deer fencing shall have a minimum height of six and a half feet (6 ½') and shall not exceed eight feet (8') above grade.
   3. Permitted deer fencing materials may include, woven wire fencing, field fence, "hog panels", wire strand or polypropylene mesh net that is open and visible through the material. Within front yards all mesh material shall have a minimum open diameter of one and a half (1 ½) square inches.
   4. Deer fencing shall be supported by structural supports, or tension wires, that run along the top of the fence to prevent sagging.
   5. Chain link fences shall not be considered to be deer fences under this section even if they meet the criteria above.

Commercial Standards

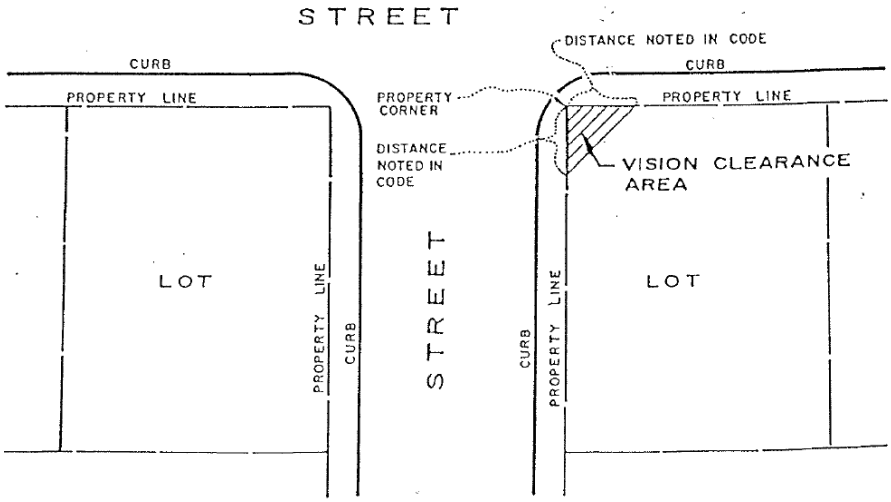
Fences built in commercial (C-1), employment (E-1) or manufacturing (M) zones are not subject to the setback and height restrictions listed above, but the height standards for vision clearance and framework standards ("good neighbor fencing") do apply.

For additional information, feel free to contact the Planning Department at 541-488-5305 or view the land use code online at www.ashland.or.us/code.asp

Setback Diagram:



Vision Clearance Diagram:



Deer Fencing Diagram: