



Residential Fence Requirements

Community Development Department ♦ 203 S. Pacific Ave. – PO Box 819 ♦ Kelso, WA 98626 ♦ 360-423-9922

Am I required to get a permit for my fence?

Fences are required to get a planning permit so we can check the proposed fence against what is allowed in the code. The permit will give you assurance that what you are building is to code and will not need to be removed later because it is in violation.

How high can my fence be?

In residential zones fences are allowed to be 42 inches tall in the front yard setback area 6 feet tall in all other areas.

What materials can my fence be made of?

Fences may be made of any material, except for barbed wire and razor wire or any other wire designed to cause injury to persons or animals.

Where on my property can I place my fence?

You can place your fence anywhere on your property, except that on corner lots you may not place a sight obscuring fence in the sight triangles as described in the Kelso Engineering and Design Manual.

Am I required to build a “good neighbor” fence?

A good neighbor fence is one where the structural members are on the inside. The City Code has no requirements concerning good neighbor fences.

What documents need to be submitted for a permit?

You will need a completed application and a site plan drawing that is drawn to scale and includes the following information:

- The location of all property lines
- The location of all streets and alleys
- The location of all buildings
- The location of your fence
- The height of your fence in all locations
- The type of material that the fence is made of.

After getting my permit is there anything I need to do before beginning construction?

You should always call 811 for locates before digging on your property. Also be sure that you can accurately locate your property lines.

When do I need to call for inspection for my fence?

Once your fence is completed you should call for a final inspection. If you have questions before that feel free to call for a courtesy inspection and we can meet you on site to answer your questions.