

## FAQ:

# I want to build a fence. How high can the fence be? What permits do I need? (Residentially Zoned Property)

### Background:

- [A-301.2.5](#) specifies when a zoning permit is required.
- [A-301.2.1](#) specifies when a building permit is required.
- [14-706](#) outlines the zoning requirements related to the height and opacity of fences.
- [14-202\(18\)](#) defines a sight triangle

### Answer:

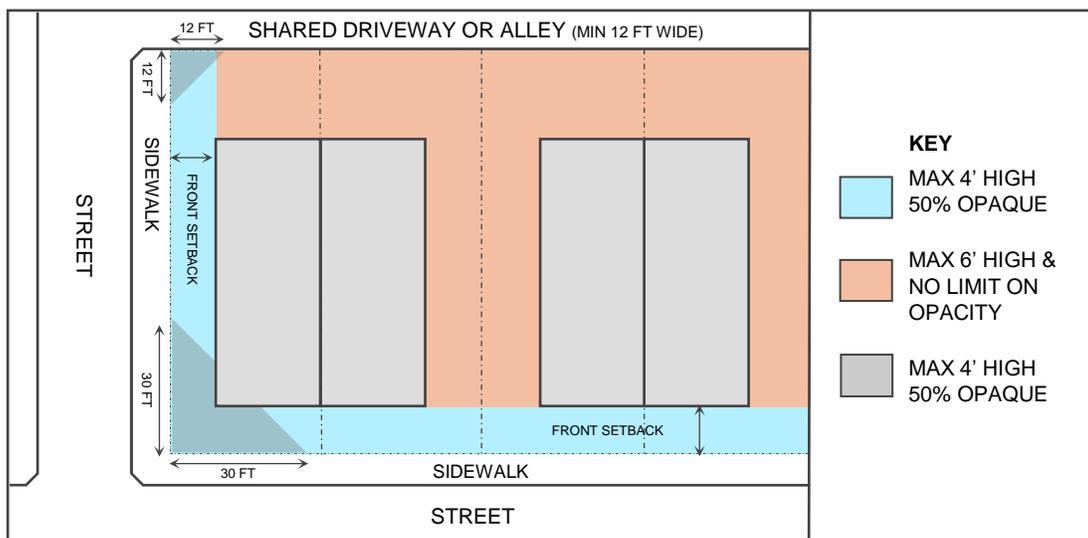
#### Permit Requirements:

**Zoning Permit:** A zoning permit is not required if a fence is at or below the allowable limits of the Zoning Code. If you are proposing to exceed the limits of the zoning code, you must apply for a permit and a refusal will be issued which you can then appeal to the zoning Board of Adjustments.

**Building Permit:** A building permit is required for non-masonry fences that exceed six ft. in height. A building permit is required for masonry fences that exceed two ft. in height.

#### Allowable Height and Opacity:

- Fences that are located between the street and the building on the lot shall be no more than **four ft. in height and no more than 50% opaque**. Note, if the required front setback of the district is greater than the setback of the actual structure, this requirement applies to the depth of the required setback. In all other portions of the property, the fence may be no more than **six ft. in height**.
  - Fence posts and gate posts that serve as architectural features are permitted to be 6 inches above the allowable fence height.
- If the fence is within 30 ft of an intersection of 12ft of a shared driveway or alley that is at least 12 ft wide, it can be no more than **four ft. in height and more than 50% opaque**.



#### L&I Permit and License Center

1401 John F. Kennedy Blvd., Municipal Services Building, Public Service Concourse  
 Open 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Offices close at noon on the last Wednesday of each month.

**Questions?**

Call 311 or (215) 686-8686 (if outside Philadelphia) or submit a permit-related question online via <https://form.jotform.com/81494420572154>.

**Disclaimer:**

This interpretation, policy or code application is intended to provide guidance to staff for consistency of review and is subject to change without notice. Application of this interpretation, policy or code application to specific projects may vary. There may be other ways to comply with the Code. If so, you are not required to use this method. You may want to investigate other options or consult with a professional identifying an equally code compliant solution.

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