Department of
Licenses and Inspections
CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

Reference Code(s):
Philadelphia Zoning Code
Philadelphia Administrative Code

FAQ:
I want to build a fence. How high can the fence be? What permits do I need? (Commercially 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:

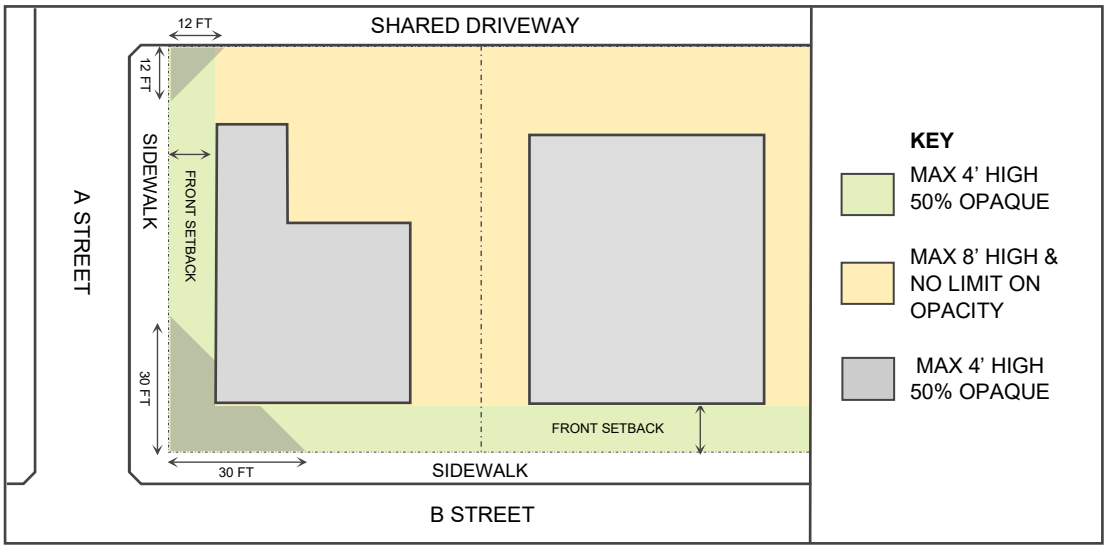
Zoning Permit: A zoning permit is not required if a fence is at or below the allowable limits of the Zoning Code. If you are proposing to exceed the limits of the zoning code, you must apply for a permit and a refusal will be issued which you can then appeal to the Zoning Board of Adjustments.

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 **eight ft. in height.**

- If the fence is proposed within a sight triangle, it can be no more than **four ft. in height and more than 50% opaque**.



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Questions?

Call 311 or (215) 686-8686 (if outside Philadelphia) or submit an online form via http://www.phila.gov/li/get-help.

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.