

# Residential Fences, Walls and Hedges

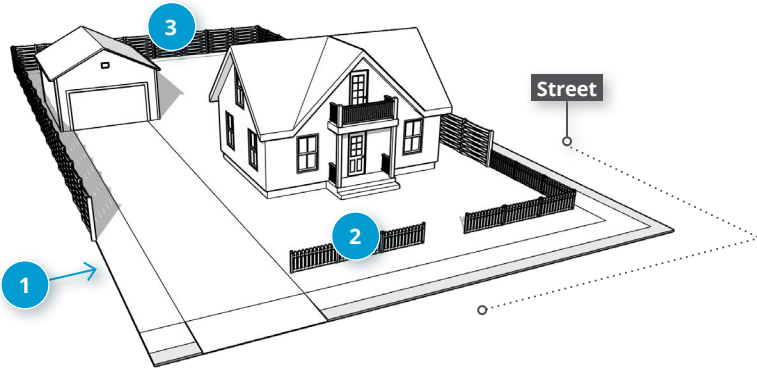
## Design Guidance



### Why Regulate Fencing?

Regulations for fences, walls and hedges are in place to balance privacy concerns/individual site design with public concerns for enhancement of community appearance (streetscape and character of neighborhoods). It also ensures adequate light, air, and public safety.

### Location & Height Requirements



#### 1. Property Lines:

All fences, walls and hedges shall be erected entirely within the property lines of the property they are intended to serve.

#### 2. Front of the House:

Fences, walls and hedges must not exceed 4' in height when located between the front property line and the front building line of the house containing the primary entrance.

#### 3. Corner, Side & Rear of the House:

Fences, walls and hedges located at or behind the primary facade of the house are allowed up to 6' in height.

**Note:** The height of fences, walls and hedges is measured from the finished grade of the property it serves.

### PLEASE NOTE

**A Building Permit is required prior to construction of any fence or wall.** The permit is to ensure compliance with zoning requirements as well as to ensure the structural safety, which is verified by plan review and site inspection. A Certificate of Appropriateness is always required for properties in a Local Historic District.

### PERMIT PROCESS & REGULATIONS

#### Permit Process

1. Submit the permit application electronically through the [Citizen Access Portal](#).
  - **For Fencing:**  
Apply for a Residential Fence Permit.
  - **For Walls:**  
Apply for a Residential Building Permit
2. After the permit application has been submitted, a [site plan](#) identifying the location and height of the proposed fence or wall must be submitted to [ProjectDox](#) for plan review approval.
  - Projects for fences or walls exceeding 7' in height, when allowed, or projects for fences or walls constructed of masonry or concrete must include construction plans showing horizontal and vertical reinforcements and foundation details. For additional application submission instructions, [see Instructions to Apply for a Permit](#).
3. [Schedule an Inspection](#) to verify compliance and to close out the permit after the fence has been installed.

#### Regulations

**Construction of these structures must follow the standards in [21A.40.120](#).** Additional regulations apply when the property is located in:

- **FR-1, FR-2 & FR-3 Foothills Residential Districts:** See [21A.24.010.P](#).
- **FP Foothills Protection District:** See [21A.32.040.I](#).
- **Historic Preservation Overlay District:** All properties within the Historic Preservation Overlay Districts require historic approval prior to construction. See [21A.34.020.E](#).

#### Building Services & Code Enforcement

451 S State Street, Room 215  
Salt Lake City, UT 84114  
PO BOX 145490

[slc.gov/buildingservices](http://slc.gov/buildingservices) | 801-535-6000

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### ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

#### Additional Fence Height Allowed

- **Adjacent to Nonresidential Zoning:** Fences, walls, or hedges in the FR, SR, and R-1 zoning districts adjacent to nonresidential zoning districts may be allowed up to 8'.

**This exception only applies where the lot abuts the nonresidential district. It does not apply to corner side yards or front yards.**

- **Around Recreation Equipment:**

Fences or walls constructed around private game courts, swimming pools, or other similar recreation equipment that are compliant with setbacks may be allowed up to 10' in height when the fence or wall is at least 80% transparent above a height of 6'.

#### Height of Pillars

Pillars for fences or walls are allowed to extend up to 18" above the maximum height, provided the diameter/width of such pillars does not exceed 18" and that such pillars have a minimum spacing of 6' apart, measured face to face.

#### Materials

Fences and walls shall be made of high quality, durable materials. Scrap materials and materials not typically used or designated/manufactured for fencing are not allowed.

#### Gates & Arches

Gates crossing driveways must be setback at least 17'6" from the edge of the sidewalk (or property line when a sidewalk does not exist), and swing inwardly to the property or roll to the side as to not impact a vehicular staging area.

The height of gates shall conform to the maximum fence height. Decorative elements may extend up to 1' above the maximum fence height. A maximum of 2 arches or trellises measuring up to 12' in height and 5' in width are allowed over a gate if integrated into the fence/gate design.

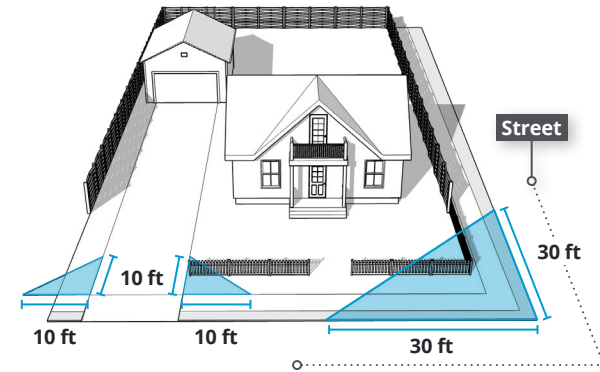
#### Vision Clearance & Safety

Fences, walls and hedges must comply with Sight Distance Triangle requirements.

The "Sight Distance Triangle," is the triangular area formed by a diagonal line connecting two points which defines an area where vision obstructions are prohibited. **Sight Distance Triangles are measured as follows:**

- **Intersection of the Driveway and Street, Alleys, or Sidewalks:** Extending 10' from each intersecting edge of the driveway and the adjoining edges of these paths. Fence height shall not exceed 30 inches within this triangle.
- **Corner Lots:** No solid fence, wall, or hedge can be taller than 3 feet if it is located within 30 feet of an intersection where two streets meet. This rule applies to the area where the street curbs or edges of the road are.
- **See Through Fences in the Sight Distance Triangle:** Within the area defined as a sight distance triangle, see through fences that are at least fifty percent (50%) open shall be allowed to a height of four (4) feet.

#### Sight Distance Triangle Diagram



#### 10 ft. Sight Distance Triangle:

No fence, wall or hedge is allowed to exceed 30" in height when located within a 10' sight distance triangle.

#### 30 ft. Sight Distance Triangle:

No fence, wall or hedge is allowed to exceed 3' in height when located within a 30' sight distance triangle.

**See through fences that are at least 50% open are allowed in Sight Distance Triangles up to 4' in height.**

#### Learn More:

Additional information regarding Fences, Walls & Hedges, including images that illustrate the requirements, can be found in the Zoning Ordinance [Section 21A.40.120](#).

More information on how to apply for a permit and schedule inspections is available at [www.slc.gov/buildingservices](http://www.slc.gov/buildingservices).

