

RESIDENTIAL FENCE INFORMATION

Fences are a common residential structure, and must meet specific regulations. For the full regulations on fences, please see [Chapter 18-565](#).

These regulations apply to most residential homes located in the Single Family Detached, Single Family Attached, and Multifamily Zoning District. Neighborhoods with the Planned Development Zoning District may have different fence guidelines. Contact [City Development](#) if the zoning is Planned Development for these regulations. You can check what the zoning is for a property by looking at the [Thornton Property and Zoning Information](#) map.

- **What:** Fence means any structure that is comprised of posts, boards, wire, stakes, rails or any combination of similar elements that provides a physical barrier, enclosure, or boundary. (This definition does not include golf safety nets as defined in this section and regulated in [Section 18-166](#).)
- **Where:** Fences are allowed on or within the subject property lines. (Property line locations are not verified by the City of Thornton.)
 - Fences over 2 ft. 6 in. in height are not allowed in visibility triangles. Visibility triangles are generally found on corner properties at intersections, and are designed to ensure a safe line-of-sight for vehicles moving through the intersection. Verify with [City Development](#) if you have a visibility triangle on your property.
 - Parallel fences must have at least a 5 ft. gap between them.
- **Type:** There are many allowed types of fences, from wood or vinyl privacy fences, open-rail fences, to wrought-iron fences.
 - Prohibited fence types: Fences constructed of chicken wire, wafer or particle board, or plywood are prohibited along any property line or in any required building setback where visible from a public street. Fences constructed of plastic netting or any types of plastic mesh are prohibited, except in connection with ongoing construction projects, street maintenance, or traffic and pedestrian control.
- **Height:** The height of a fence is measured from grade to the top of the fence.
 - In select locations with additional approvals, fences may be allowed up to 8 ft. tall.
 - Fences located in the side and rear yard may be up to 6 ft. tall.
 - Fences located in the front yard may be up to 4 ft. tall.
 - Fences over 2 ft. 6 in. in height are not allowed in visibility triangles.
 - Verify with [City Development](#) if you have a visibility triangle on your property.
- **Permits:** Construction of a new fence or the repair/replacement of an existing fence requires a building permit from the [Building Inspection Division](#).