

FENCES

REGULATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

REVISED 7/16/2015



WHAT IS A FENCE?

A fence shall mean a railing, wall, or other means of enclosing a yard, garden, field, etc., to show where a property line is, or to keep people or animals out or for decoration.

FUNCTIONAL: A “functional fence” is intended to enclose a parcel or portion of a parcel in order to prevent or make difficult entry by animals, persons, or vehicles. Such a fence may also be a visual screen. Chain link, masonry, stockade and similar type fences are examples of functional fences.



DECORATIVE: A “decorative fence” is intended to enclose a parcel or portion of a parcel in a decorative manner and is not necessarily intended to preclude or inhibit entry or vision into the property. Examples of decorative fences include split rail, wrought iron, and similar fences that are visually “transparent” and/or readily breached.

FENCE REGULATIONS

Fences shall be constructed so the finished side of the fence faces the outside of the parcel.

After installation a fence must be maintained in good condition and cannot fall into disrepair

(Michigan Residential Code)

LOCATION

RESIDENTIAL: No fence, other than plant materials, greater than six feet (6’) in height, shall be erected on any residential property. No fence shall be erected within any residential front yard greater than forty eight inches (48”) in height meeting following standards for construction:

Picket fences shall be allowed having a minimum of two inch (2”) spacing between each vertical piece of fencing and all vertical picket fencing must not be wider than four inches (4”)

Split rail fences with two (2) horizontal rails shall not exceed six inches (6”) in width are allowed within a residential front yard.

Chain link fences that are transparent are allowed within a residential front yard area.

All structural members must be hidden or on the inside of a fence.

No fence shall be constructed within any road or highway right of way.



EXEMPTION

Residential parcels meeting the following requirement are excluded from residential requirements but must meet the Agricultural Zoning District requirements. The parcel is in excess of five (5) acres in size and used for agricultural production or production of farm or domesticated animals.

PERMITS AND INSPECTIONS

No building permit is required for a fence in a residential zoning district. It is suggested that if you are in doubt of a property line location, have a survey done prior to construction.