



CITY OF SAINT PAUL
Christopher B. Coleman, Mayor

375 Jackson Street, Suite 220
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55101-1806

Telephone: 651-266-9007
Facsimile: 651-266-9124
Web: www.stpaul.gov/dsi

Fence Requirements (Sec. 33.07)

(a) Permit. No person shall construct, or cause to be constructed, any fence in the City of Saint Paul without first obtaining a permit from the building official.

(1) Fee. \$37.00 for the first 200 lineal feet or fraction thereof erected and \$13.00 for each additional 100 lineal feet or fraction thereof.

(2) Site Plan. A site plan must be submitted showing the property lines, location, length, height and type of fence (wood, chain link, etc.) being installed. A survey may be needed if applicant can not locate property markers.

(b) Height of fences. No fence shall be erected exceeding six (6) feet six (6) inches in height above the sidewalk or finished grade of any lot in a residence district or on any lot occupied for residential purposes. The applicant shall ensure that fences and all supporting structures shall be completely within the boundaries of such lot with no portion encroaching onto adjacent property. All fences erected between the front property line and the front setback line as defined in section 60.207 of the Saint Paul Legislative Code shall be no more than four (4) feet in height. One a corner lot of two intersecting streets in a residential zoning district, no fence, wall or other structure shall be allowed above a height of two (2) feet from the sidewalk grade in the triangular area of the lot included within ten (10) feet of the corner along each lot line unless the structure is more than 80% open. Fences for nonresidential uses in residential zoning districts shall not exceed eight (8) feet in height, except fences around tennis courts, which shall not exceed twelve (12) feet in height, back stop fences, which shall not exceed twenty (20) feet in height, and golf range fences, which shall not exceed thirty (30) feet in height. The selvage end of chain link or metal fences shall be smooth; knuckled ends are permitted, twisted ends are not permitted.

(c) Variances. A variance of the fence height regulations may be granted if, after investigation by the building official, it is found that site, or terrain, or nuisance animal conditions warrant a waiver of the height restrictions. An application fee of seventy dollars (\$70.00) is required for each variance request.

(d) Swimming pool fences. All yards of one- and two-family structures containing swimming pools shall be enclosed by an obscuring fence not less than four (4) feet in height. All yards of residential structures of three (3) or more units and commercial structures containing swimming pools shall be enclosed by an obscuring fence not less than five (5) feet in height. The gates shall be of a self-closing and self-latching type, with the latch on the inside of the gate, not readily available for children to open. Gates shall be capable of being securely locked when the pool is not in use. Commercial and multi-family residential swimming pools require approval from the MN Dept. of Health (651)201-4500 or Steve Klemm (651)201-4503.

(e) Barbed wire fences. No barbed wire fence shall be constructed within the city limits of the City of Saint Paul, except for police and correction facilities, unless the following conditions are complied with:

(1) No fence which uses barbed wire may be built in, or abut, a residentially zoned district or built on or abut a lot occupied residentially.

(2) Barbed wire, not exceeding three (3) strands, may be permitted on the top of a fence; providing, that the arms do not project over public property. The minimum height to the bottom strand of the barbed wire shall not be less than six (6) feet from finished grade.

(3) In all cases where a barbed wire fence is requested, an application shall be made to the building official.

(4) A certificate of insurance indemnifying the City of Saint Paul shall be submitted with the application subject to the approval of the city attorney as to form and in an amount as set forth in Minnesota Statutes, Section 466.04.

(f) Electric fences. No above ground electric fence shall be constructed within the city limits of the City of Saint Paul.

(g) Fences in Historic Districts. If a fence is proposed for a designated Historic Site or within a Historic District, there will be a review by the Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC) staff within the Department of Safety and Inspection (DSI) to ensure that the fence meets the Guidelines of the District. A site plan will be required (typical of all fences) and also an elevation drawing which will illustrate all the details of the fence, including height, general

(See reverse for Inspection Procedure)

appearance of the fence materials to be used and whether it will be painted or stained. Call 651-266-9090 if uncertain whether a property is in a Historic District. To reach an HPC staff person, call 651-266-9078.

Fence Inspection Procedure:

The contractor (permittee) is responsible to properly locate the property lines, locate property pins or survey property; also for arranging for the required inspections and assuring that the work is completed in compliance with applicable codes and ordinances.

The fence installer is responsible for locating the fence entirely within the boundaries of the property being fenced. If existing property markers cannot be located, the property boundary must be established by measurement from existing benchmarks or by placement of new property markers through a registered survey.

The inspector for your project is identified on the permit inspection card. If there is any question about the acceptability of existing property markers or benchmarks, contact the building inspector between 7:30 and 9:00 am for approval of the markers prior to installing the fence. Contact the building inspector as identified on the fence permit to arrange for a final inspection after completing the fence.