

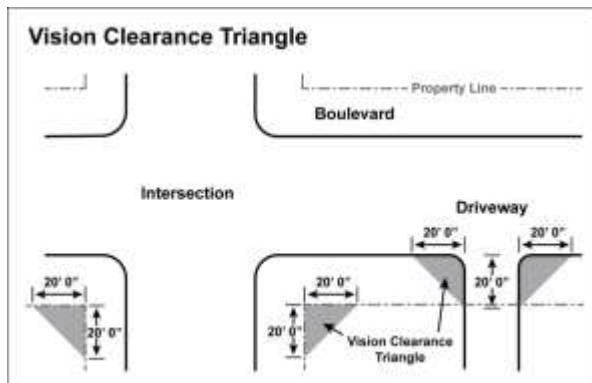
Fences

FENCE PERMIT

A fence permit is required prior to the installation of any new fence in the City of River Falls. The permit fee is \$40.00.

FENCE LOCATION

Fences must be located entirely on the owner's property and may be placed up to the property line; however, fences must be set back in order to maintain a vision clearance triangle of 20 feet. Fences must be set back a minimum of 2 feet from the nearest sidewalk and a 3 foot radius is required around all fire hydrants and utility boxes. The property owner is responsible for verifying that no conflicts exist with utilities prior to installation of fencing. Call Digger's Hotline at (800) 242-8511 at least three working days prior to fence installation. Note that fences are not permitted in FEMA designated floodways.



FENCE HEIGHT

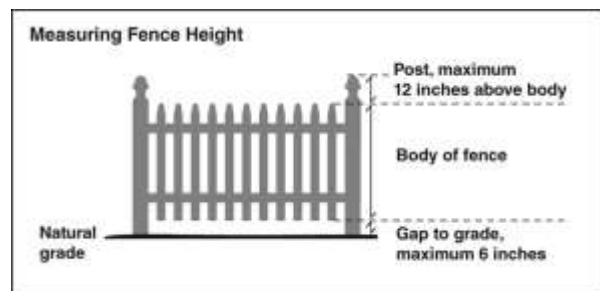
The maximum allowable fence height varies by zoning district and the location of the fence on a lot. Backyard fences may be taller than fences visible from the street. The following regulations apply to fence height, subject to the exceptions below. For height requirements, an alley is not considered a street.

Type of Yard	Maximum Fence Height	
	Residential	Nonresidential
Yard next to street	3 feet	6 feet
Yard not next to street	6 feet	10 feet

Exceptions:

1. A residential fence in a side or rear yard next to a nonresidential zone **may** rise up to 8 feet in height.
2. Commercial fences in a side or rear yard next to a residential zone **must** rise to a minimum of 8 feet in height.
3. Pool safety fences **must** rise to a minimum of 4 feet in height in any zone, including corner lots.

Fence height is measured to include the body of the fence, plus up to 6 inches (on average between posts) above the natural grade. Fence posts are permitted to extend a maximum of 12 inches above the body of the fence. If placed on a retaining wall, the fence height is measured from the ground elevation prior to grade modification.



APPROVED MATERIALS

Fences must be constructed of wood, metal, bricks, masonry, vinyl or other materials designed for permanent outdoor fencing. Wood fences must be constructed of cedar, redwood or other decay resistant wood.

Prohibited Materials

1. Chain link fencing in a front yard.
2. Fences constructed from snow fencing, plywood or materials originally intended for other purposes.
3. Above ground electric fencing.

Exceptions

1. Temporary fences made of chicken wire are permitted for garden enclosures only.
2. Temporary fence wrap made of material designed to withstand wind loads is permitted for temporary construction or excavation fences.
3. Barbed wire or razor wire fencing is only permitted by special use permit and only if the proposed fence does not abut a residential zone.

INSTALLATION

All fence elements must be permanently installed and constructed in a professional manner to secure the fence in a vertically level position. Fences must be installed so that posts and lateral supports are not on the side of the fence facing an adjacent property or public right-of-way, unless exposed on both sides.

MAINTENANCE

All fences must be kept in good repair and appearance on both sides of the fence by its owner. Fences shall not be in a condition of disrepair or constitute a public or private nuisance. Peeling, flaking and chipped coating must be eliminated and surfaces recoated. The property owner is responsible for maintaining the area between the property line and the owner's fence.

SWIMMING POOL SAFETY FENCES

All swimming pools must be completely surrounded by a fence or wall at least 4 feet in height. The fences must have no openings, holes or gaps larger than 4 inches in diameter except for doors and gates. The fence shall be of a type not readily climbed by children. A dwelling or accessory building may be used as part of such enclosure. An above ground pool with a wall greater than 4 feet in height does not require a fence if the wall cannot be readily climbed by children. Above ground pools shall be protected in such a way that access ways are equipped with self-closing and self-latching gates or doors (including removal of ladders to pools when not in use) and are kept securely closed at all times when not in actual use.