

Building Permit Required

The installation or relocation of a fence within the City of Harrisburg requires a building permit from the City. The application for a fence permit must be accompanied by a site plan of the entire lot. The site plan must indicate the name and location of adjacent streets, indicate the location of the fence within the boundaries of the lot, and a notation describing the height of the fence.

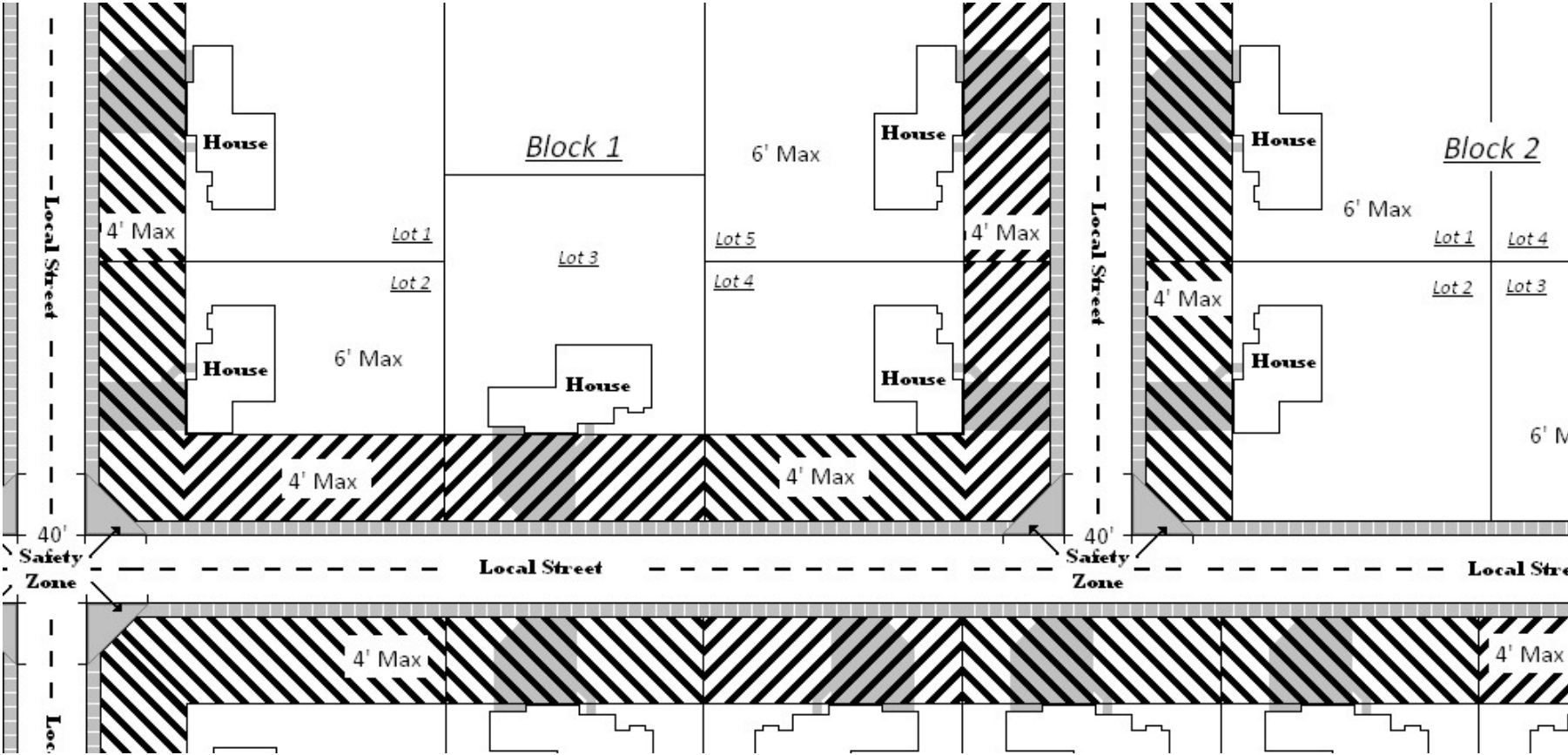
Safety Zone

No fence more than thirty percent solid may be installed within a triangle formed at the corner of two intersecting streets and a line connecting points forty feet (eighty feet if abutting a collector or arterial street) along each curb line from the corner of the lot. A similar safety zone shall be observed at the corner of a driveway and a public street with the points thirty feet from the intersection.

Residential Fences

Height: The maximum height allowed for a fence within a required front yard setback is four feet. The maximum fence height in the remainder of a lot including the rear or side yard is six feet.

Exception for double frontage and corner lots: A fence installed within a required front yard on a double frontage or corner lot abutting an arterial or collector street may be a maximum of six feet in height, provided it is not located in front of the house. The fence may be set at the property line. All safety zones must be unobstructed.



Any lot abutting two local streets may be able to construct a six-foot fence along the secondary front yard if no safety zones are obstructed.

Residential Fence Regulations

Commonly asked questions:

1. Do I need a fence permit to erect a fence?

Yes. Fence permits are required to construct, relocate, replace, erect, or maintain fences in the City of Harrisburg. Fence construction without a permit is subject to a fine.

2. Why are fence permits required for fences?

Fence permits are required to construct fences to assure compliance regarding the height and location of fences as well to insure safety and allow adequate air, light, and vision.

3. Are there any exceptions to the fence permit requirements?

Yes. Fence permits are intended to apply to fences built on or near property lines. Smaller temporary fences around interior gardens, flowers, or shrubs intended primarily for decorative purposes are exempt from the permit requirements.

4. What must I do to get a permit for a fence?

Fence permits can be obtained at the Harrisburg City Offices located at 301 East Willow Street. Applications can also be started via the City's website at: www.harrisburgsd.gov. The applicant will need to pay and sign for the permit at the City Offices.

5. Can I build a fence in an easement or drainage way area?

No fences may be built within major drainage easements, pipeline easements, or power line easements. Also note that if a fence is constructed within a utility easement it can be taken down at any time within that easement by any utility company that uses the easement and that the expense of removing or putting the fence back up will fall upon the homeowner.

6. Can I build a fence on my rear or side yard property line?

Yes, but you are responsible for ensuring that the fence is built on your property and does not encroach upon your neighbor's property.

7. If my neighbor agrees, can I connect my fence to my neighbor's existing fence?

Yes.

8. Are fences allowed in a front yard?

Yes, subject to height requirements and safety zone requirements. **On interior lots**, fences of not more than four feet in height can be erected in a front yard. Fences not more than four feet in height (six feet in the secondary front yard) may be erected in a front yard **on corner or double frontage lots** if they are not more than thirty percent solid when located within a safety zone.

9. What size fence can I have in my back yard?

Fences of not more than six feet in height are allowed on any portion of a rear or side yard.

10. What about corner or double frontage lots?

Corner and double frontage lots pose peculiar problems to fence construction because both zoning regulations and traffic regulations are applicable. Zoning regulations dictate that all corner lots and double frontage lots have a required front yard for setback purpose along each street frontage. Fences that are a maximum of six feet in height are allowed in the front yard if they are not in front of the house and follow all applicable safety zones. In addition, these lots may have more than one intersection safety zone requiring visibility adjustments to any fence erected within this area. See Fence Ordinance Exhibit for examples.

11. Does it matter what side of my fence faces my neighbor's yards?

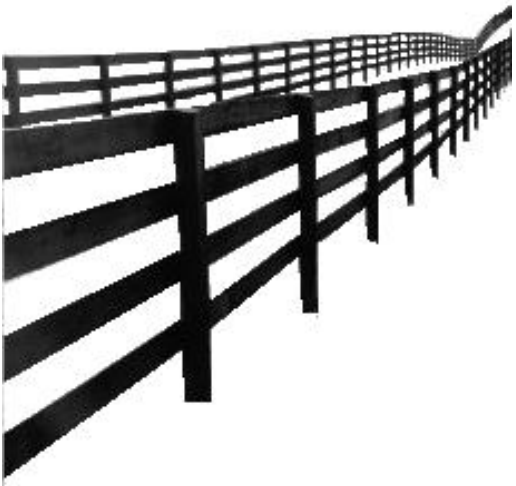
Yes. Our fence ordinance mandates that the fence is to have the supporting poles on the inside of the fence and the smooth wood side to face abutting neighbors. Please note this only applies to fences that have sides that are not identical.

Further questions can be answered at:
605.767-5010

Remember: Before you dig
CALL 811

Fence Permit Requirements

For Residential Properties



Prepared by



Building Services

August 2023

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