

Permit Required

The installation, relocation, or replacement of fences within the City of Harrisburg requires a permit from the City. The application for a fence permit requires 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 add a notation describing the height of the fence. The permit fee is \$27.00* for fences.

* Does not include Credit Card fee

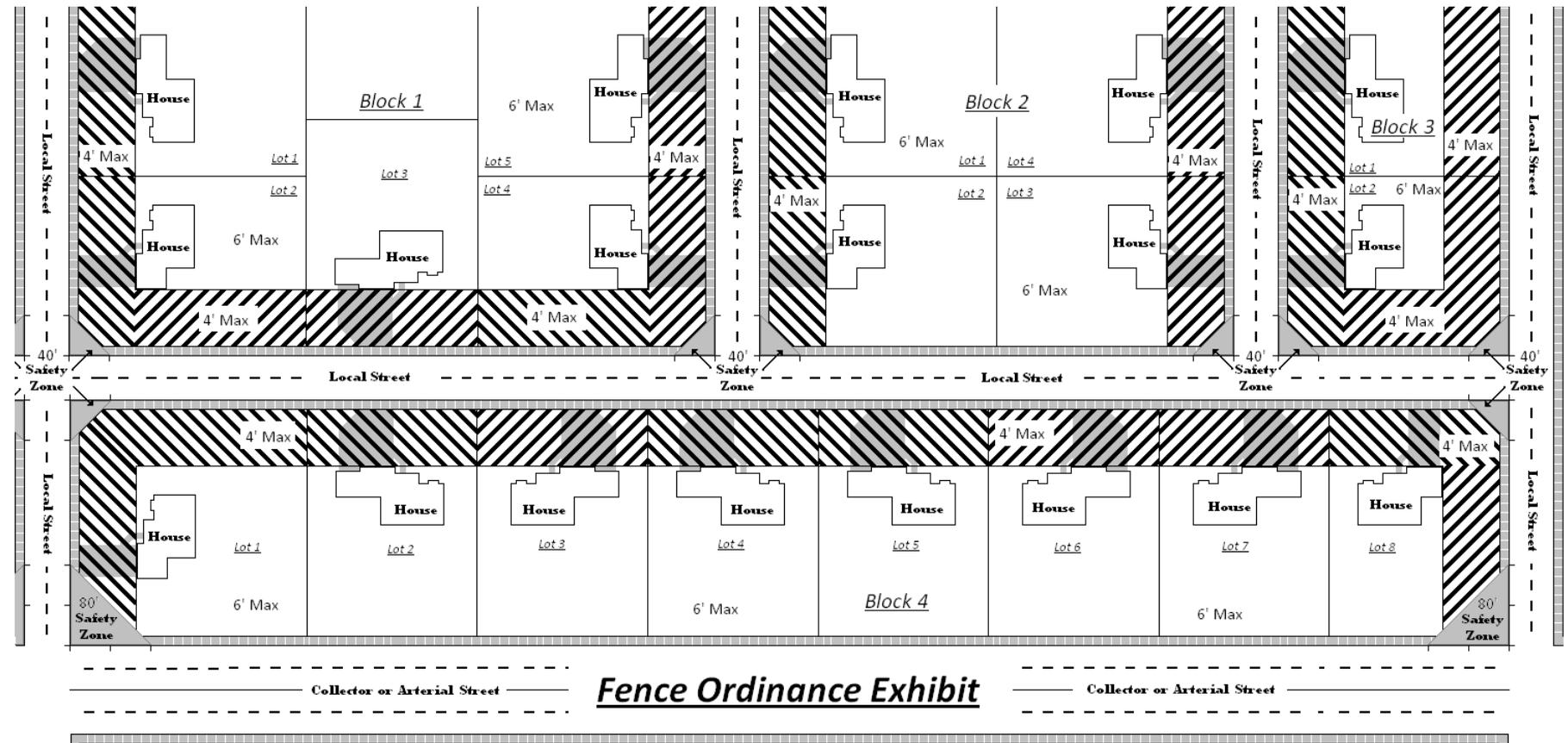
Safety Zone

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 and no fence more than three feet tall may be in the driveway safety zone (See Exhibit).

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 maintained.



Any lot abutting two local streets may be able to construct a six foot fence along the secondary front yard as long as there are no driveways along that block (See Block 2 of Exhibit). If a driveway is present along the block a twenty-five foot front yard will need to be maintained (See Block 1 of Exhibit).

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 designed for screening, security, and privacy purposes. 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 drainage ways. You must have permission to erect a fence in easement areas. Contact your local utility companies to determine types and locations of easements. Also note that if a fence is constructed in an easement it can be taken down at any time within that easement by whomever is allowed to use that easement and the expense of putting the fence back up will fall upon the homeowner.

6. If my neighbor agrees, can we build a fence jointly on our property line?

Yes, but such action requires a signed agreement between the affected property owners. Forms are available at the City Office or online. Required information includes description of agreement (i.e. building on East property line) and having the affected property owner sign and indicate where he lives.

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

Yes, but such action requires a signed agreement between the affected property owners.

8. Are fences allowed in a front yard?

Yes, subject to height requirements and type 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 may be erected in a front yard **on corner lots** provided that they are not more than thirty percent solid when located within an intersection safety zone and not more than three feet in height when located in the driveway safety zone (ten feet from the curb line). Examples can be found on the Fence Ordinance Exhibit.

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

On interior lots, 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 as long as 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.

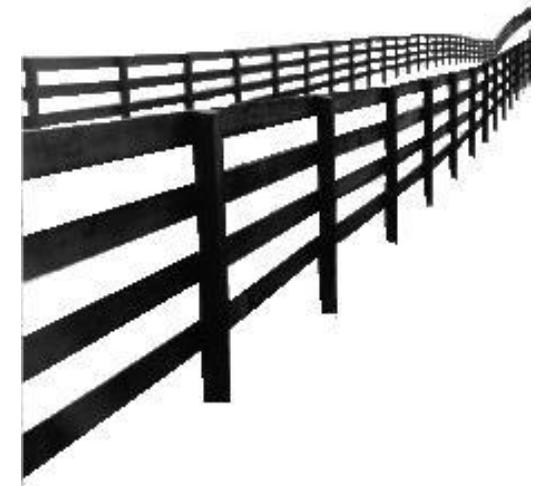
11. Does it matter what side of my fence faces my neighbor's yards?

Yes. Our fence ordinance mandates that the default position for a fence is to have the supporting poles on the inside of the fence and the smooth wood side to face abutting neighbors. This can be changed if a consent agreement is signed by the abutting neighbors. Please note this only applies to fences that have sides that are not identical.

**Further questions can be answered at:
605.743.5872 ext. 12**

**Remember: Before you dig
CALL 811**

Fence Permit Requirements For Residential Properties



Prepared by



Building Services

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