

**The following are required of all fences installed in the City of Franklin:**

- (a) All fences shall be maintained in good repair and in structurally sound condition. All fences shall be constructed and maintained in a good aesthetic condition and in such a manner and of such materials and colors so as not to adversely affect the value of adjoining property or property in the immediate neighborhood. No fence may be constructed or maintained which is detrimental to human life or safety or causes a traffic hazard. All fences shall be constructed and maintained straight, plumb, and of an even height along its length, except for such deviations as required by grade.
- (b) No advertising or signs shall be permitted on any fence in any zoning district.
- (c) No materials shall be stored between a fence located adjacent to a lot line and the lot.
- (d) Fencing shall be constructed with a finished or decorative side facing the adjacent or abutting property or street.
- (e) No fence shall be constructed in the City without first obtaining a Building Permit.
- (f) Snow fencing will only be permitted between November 15 and April 15 of each year. No Building Permits for the installation of said snow fencing shall be required.

**DEFINITIONS:**

- (a) **Fence:** A structure that is a barrier or is used as a boundary or means of protection or confinement.
- (b) **Fence - Solid:** A fence, including gates, which conceals from view from adjoining properties, streets or alleys, activities conducted behind it.
- (c) **Fence - Decorative:** A fence, including gates, which are more than 75% open and less than 3 feet in height, such as split rail fences used for ornamental purposes. For purposes of this section, chain link and picket fences are not considered to be decorative fences.
- (d) **Height:** The height of the fence shall be determined by measuring the vertical distance from grade to the top of each section of the fence.
- (e) **Yard, Front, Side, and Rear:** All yard areas are defined by the City of Franklin Unified Development Ordinance.

**RESIDENTIAL FENCING**

**LOCATION:**

1. Fences having a height of six (6) feet or less may be used to locate property lines within the required side and rear yard areas in residential districts.
2. Fences shall not be located within the front yard, except decorative fencing may be installed within the front yard areas in the residential districts.
3. In R-8 General Residence Districts or a PDD (Residential) District where aesthetic appearance may require a fence or wall to shield parking lots or other unattractive areas or to generally improve the aesthetics of the development, a wall or fence may be erected in the front yard of the development, by approval of the Plan Commission, and which may include design or other architectural requirements.
4. Fences shall not be located in a corner side yard or any rear yard abutting a street on a corner lot. For a rear yard abutting a street on a corner lot, the setback shall be the required corner side setback of the zoning district, or not any closer to the street than the distance from the street to the principal building to which it is accessory, whichever distance is greater.
5. **Double frontage lots** (streets opposite each other) – A fence may be used to locate the property line within the required side and rear (back yard) property line.
6. **Three street frontage lots** – A fence may not be placed in the rear or exterior corner side yard on lots with three street frontages.
7. No barbed wire, chicken wire, or electrically charged fences shall be allowed in residential zoning districts.

**NONRESIDENTIAL ZONING DISTRICTS (excluding A-1, A-2, I-1, and P-1 Districts)**

1. Fences may be located in all yards in nonresidential zoning districts. Fences located in the front yard shall be approved by the Plan Commission prior to the issuance of a building permit.
2. Fences installed in nonresidential districts shall not exceed six (6) feet in height, except when required to enclose outside storage areas or when approved by the Plan Commission may be up to ten (10) feet in height.
3. Fencing constructed to enclose outside storage areas shall be at least eight (8) feet in height and in no case lower in height than the enclosed storage area when approved by the Plan Commission.
4. Barbed wire may be allowed on the top of fences six (6) feet or more in height.
5. All fencing constructed to enclose outside storage areas in non-residential zoning districts shall be approved by the Plan Commission.

**A-1 AND A-2 ZONING DISTRICTS**

1. Fencing shall be permitted in all yards in the A-1 and A-2 districts and in all yards on legal non-conforming agricultural uses for replacement of existing fencing. Fencing shall be permitted in front yards only for the enclosure of cultivated fields, pastures, and animal pens.
2. Fencing for areas other than those described in Section 1 above shall comply with the residential fencing requirements.
3. Fencing may be constructed in the A-1 and A-2 districts for cultivated fields and pastures before a principal structure is present.

**INSTITUTIONAL AND PARK FENCING**

1. Fencing over six (6) feet in height, enclosing a park, elementary, middle, or high school site shall be permitted in all yards.
2. All fencing in institutional districts or for institutional uses shall be limited to open mesh-type fencing (chain link).

**APPLICATION FOR PERMIT:**

In order to avoid delays in the processing of an application to erect or construct a fence the following information is necessary:

1. A plat of survey (**ACTUAL SCALE, NOT ENLARGED OR REDUCED**), showing proposed fencing location, and **any existing structures** on the property.
2. Dimensions of fence to lot lines and buildings.
3. Height of fence above grade (highest point).
4. Brochure or picture, showing type of fence proposed.
5. Please complete attached WE Energies easement form.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Diggers Hotline helps identify costly and dangerous utilities that can be buried just inches beneath your yard's surface. Call or click three working days before digging and have your lines marked so you can dig freely and safely. Wisconsin's One-Call Center 811 or (800) 242-8511 OR schedule your request online at [www.diggershotline.com](http://www.diggershotline.com).

**INSPECTIONS:**

1. Location of fencing identified prior to setting posts. Lot lines and fence location must be marked (spray paint, string, etc.) No portion of fence allowed past lot line.
2. When fence installation is complete. Lot markers must be identified until the final inspection has been completed.

**FEES:**

**\$13.00 per \$1,000. value of work, \$65.00 minimum fee  
All permits subject to Technology Fee of \$7.00**

**OWNER'S ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF CONDITIONS FOR FENCES LOCATED IN  
WE ENERGIES UTILITY EASEMENTS**

Fences may be permitted in We Energies utility easements only subject to the following:

1. The fence shall not be positioned nearer than 3' to any side of a transformer if present.
2. The fence shall not be positioned nearer than 10' to the door of any transformer if present. *EXCEPTION: If a gate or easily removable section of fence is positioned directly in front of the door and measures at least as wide as the door to the transformer, the distance may be reduced to 3'.*
3. We Energies will not repair or replace any portion of the fence in the utility easement if the fence needs to be removed for any utility work including clearing obstructions in the easement area.
4. The fence shall not be attached to any utility equipment.
5. "Digger's Hotline" shall be contacted prior to any excavation work.
6. This authorization only applies to We Energies utility easements.

Property Owner(s) hereby acknowledges that he/she has read and understands the above conditions:

Sign \_\_\_\_\_ Print \_\_\_\_\_

Sign \_\_\_\_\_ Print \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: The owner must sign this acknowledgement and include it with their fence permit submittal.