



CITY OF MENASHA • Community Development Department  
140 Main Street • Phone (920) 967-3650 • website: <http://www.cityofmenasha-wi.gov>

## FENCES

### What is a Fence?

The City of Menasha defines a fence as an enclosed barrier of vegetation, wood, stone, or metal intended to prevent ingress and egress. This definition includes the use of hedges.

### General Provisions

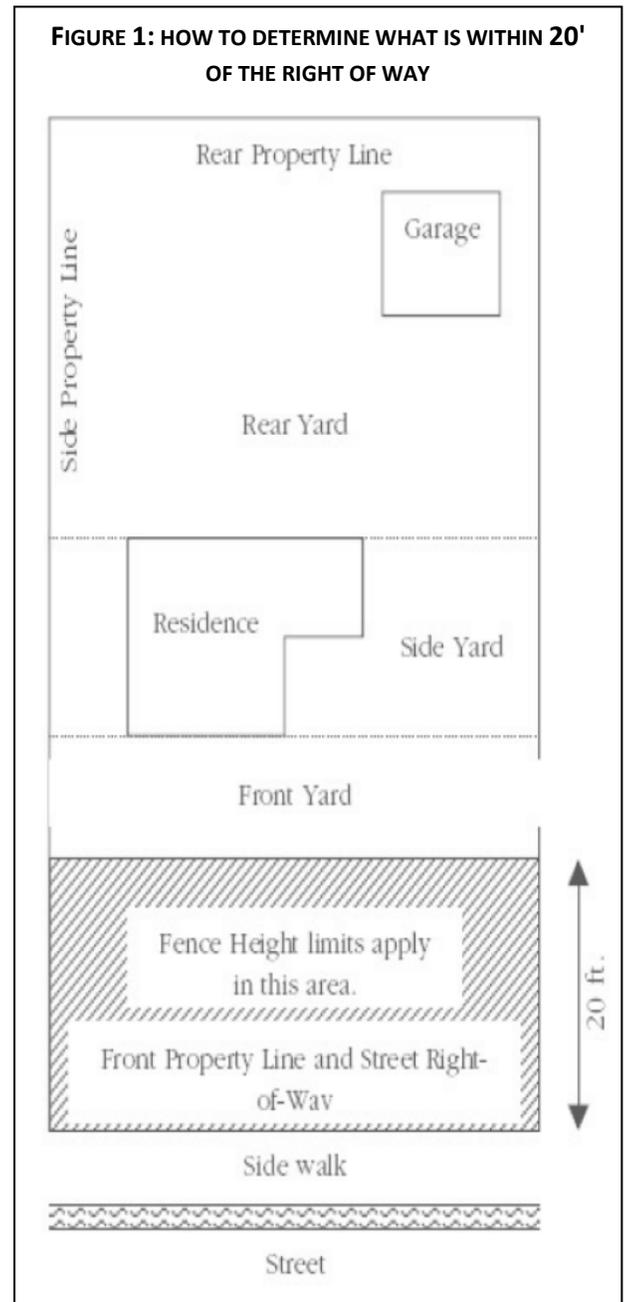
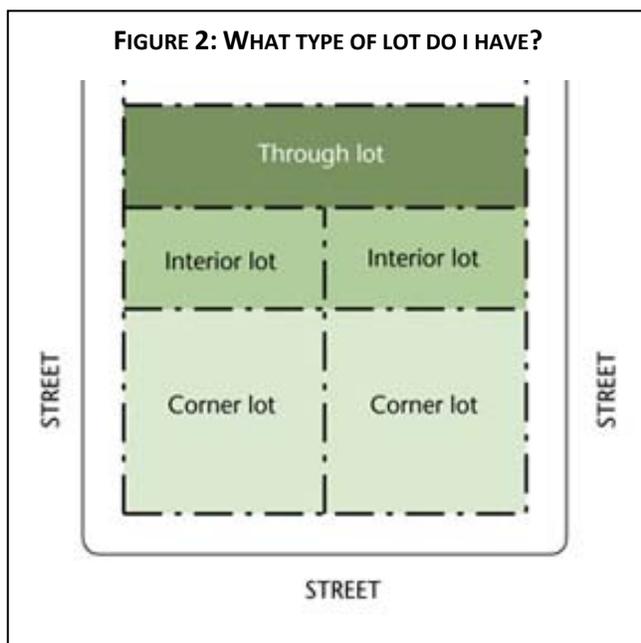
**Height.** The maximum height of a fence is as follows:

#### Interior Lots

- Within 20' of the front lot line, the fence may be no taller than 3' if a solid fence, or 4'6" if the fence is 2/3 open to vision (for example a 1" picket must have at least 2" open on either side or chain link).
- Beyond 20' of the front lot line, the fence should be no higher than 6-8' tall.

#### Corner Lots & Through Lots

- Within 20' of the front lot line, fences taller than 3' if solid, and 4'6" if 2/3 open to vision may be allowed within 20' of the right of way, subject to review and approval via the City's fence permit process (see "Do I Need a Permit" below).
- Beyond 20' of the front lot line, the fence should be no higher than 6-8' tall.



### **Fencing to Enclose Pools**

- Any pool with side walls less than 4' high must be enclosed by a fence that is at least 48" high, to include a self latching gate, with some exceptions. Please consult the "SWIMMING POOLS" factsheet for more detailed information and for alternative protective measures.

**Location.** In most cases, a fence may be located up to the property line. Please be aware of easements or private covenants that may further restrict the location of your fence. Please consult the city's "LOT LINES" fact sheet for help determining where your lot line is. The city does not provide lot line location services.

**Prohibited Materials.** The use of barbed wire, electrical, and single, double and triple strand fences are prohibited in all residential settings. Snow fencing and chicken wire used as a permanent fence is not considered an appropriate fencing material.

### **Do I Need a Permit?**

**Corner & Through Lots.** Corner and through lots require a permit, with few exceptions. Please contact the Community Development Department to help make this determination.

- **Fence Permit Application:** Permit applications are available [here](#), or from the Community Development Department located on second floor of city hall. There is no fee for the fence permit. Issued permits may include limitations on the location, height or materials used as found necessary to protect public safety and community aesthetics.

**Interior Lots.** All other lots within the city do not require a permit, but still must comply with the "general provisions," as provided on page 1.

### **Disclaimer**

This information is only a general guide to help you plan a typical fence installation. While we have made an attempt to answer the questions most often asked regarding fences, your situation may not be included. For more complicated situations not addressed in this factsheet, such as fences in the floodplain, feel free to contact the Community Development Department to discuss your proposed fence.

### **Recommended Actions**

**Call Diggers Hotline.** Please remember that there may be underground electric, phone or cable T.V. wires buried on your property in easements that are generally 5' or 6' wide on your side and rear lot lines. Please call the Digger's Hotline before you do any digging on your property.



**DIGGERS HOTLINE: (800) 242-8511**

**Communicate with your neighbors.** Oftentimes disputes arise when a fence is installed without involving your neighbor(s) as you plan your project. These disputes tend to involve the location of the fence in relation to the property line, fence material selections/colors, and which side of the fence faces your neighbor. These issues are considered private civil matters in which the city does not get involved in resolving. By consulting with your neighbor at the beginning of your project, most of these issues can be avoided.