



Planning & Community Development

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Fences

When do I need a permit?

If your fence is six feet high or less, it may be built on the property line. No building permit is required, unless your property is located in an environmentally critical area.

If the fence is over six feet high, a building permit is required. The fence will need to be set back from your property line to the minimum “yard setbacks” for your zoning district. Typical yard setbacks for single family residential zones are as follows:

Street: 20’ from front property line

Side: 5’ minimum from side property lines

Rear: 15’ from rear property line

If you live on a street corner, you have two front (street) yard setbacks and two side yard setbacks. You do not have a rear yard setback.

Friendly Fences



The City of Shoreline recommends that your front yard fence be no more than 3 feet 6 inches high. This makes our neighborhoods friendly and safe, and reduces crime by increasing visibility and reducing “hiding places”.

Hours of Operation:

Monday 8:00 am–5:00 pm
Tuesday 8:00 am–5:00 pm
Wednesday 1:00 pm–5:00 pm
Thursday 1:00 pm–5:00 pm
Friday 8:00 am–5:00 pm

Permit Processing Ends at 4:00 pm Daily

Sight Distance Triangle

All fences, regardless of height, must meet sight distance requirements as described below. The sight distance is an area that must be kept unobstructed, so that drivers pulling out of driveways or intersections can see oncoming traffic and pedestrians.

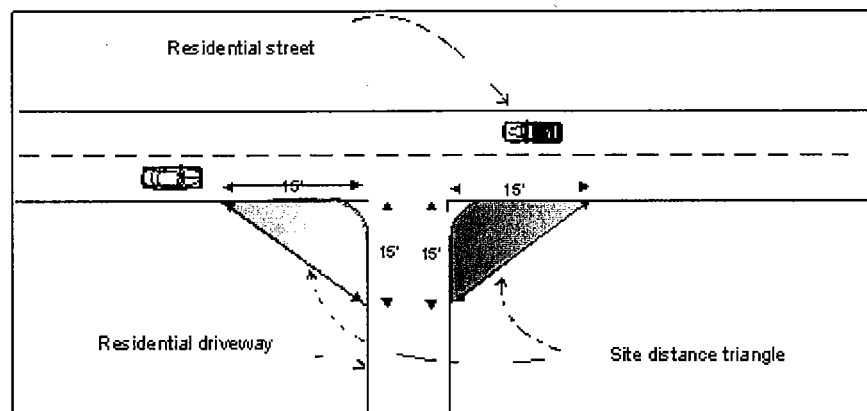
The following sight distance provisions shall apply to all intersections and site access points. A sight distance triangle shall contain no fence, berm, vegetation, signs or other physical obstruction between 30" and 7'-6" above the existing street grade:

Trees, overhangs, eaves cannot extend below 7'-6" (6' residential).

1. Hedges, shrubs, retaining walls, fences can be up to 30" high.
2. Open area must be maintained between 30" and 7'-6" high (6' residential).

How to measure a sight distance triangle

For a DRIVEWAY INTERSECTION WITH STREET: Measure 15' along the street on both sides of the driveway and 15' along the edges of the driveway beginning at the respective points of intersection. The third side of each triangle is a line connecting the endpoints of the first two sides



Example of a sight distance triangle

For fences on a street corner, the site distance measurement will depend on the type of streets that intersect. Please refer to the Shoreline Engineering Development Manual Section 13.8.