

Fence Guide

What is a fence?

A fence is a structure used to enclose or divide, in whole or in part, a yard or other land to establish a property boundary including hedges consisting of a dense line of bushes or small trees.

Fences do not require a permit. Please refer to the Fence By-law for requirements.

What fences are prohibited?

The following fences are prohibited:

- Snow fencing used as a permanent fence
- Fences made of sheet metal or corrugated metal panels
- Fences containing hazardous materials such as barbed wire, razor wire or sharp projections, except for managing livestock on an active agricultural property
- Electrified fences, except for managing livestock on an active agricultural property
- Fences that obstruct traffic sightlines or interfere with the visibility or effectiveness of traffic control devices

What are the requirements of an allowable fence?

Property owners must maintain fences in good repair. Fences must:

- Be structurally sound, plumb and securely anchored
- Use weather-resistant materials
- Be free of broken, rusted, rotten or hazardous components
- Be maintained without peeling paint or stain

- Be kept free of markings or defacement and not present an unsightly appearance to neighbouring properties or the community

How is height measured?

Fence height is measured vertically from the ground at the base of the fence to its highest point, excluding the posts. If the fence is on a retaining wall, height is measured from the top of the wall to the highest point of the fence

What are the height requirements for fences in a residential zone?

- A fence erected within a rear or side yard shall not exceed a height of 2.0 metres (6' 6")
- A fence erected in a water yard shall not exceed a height of 1.2 metres (4'-0")
- A fence erected to a front or exterior side yard shall not exceed a height of 1 metre (3'-3").

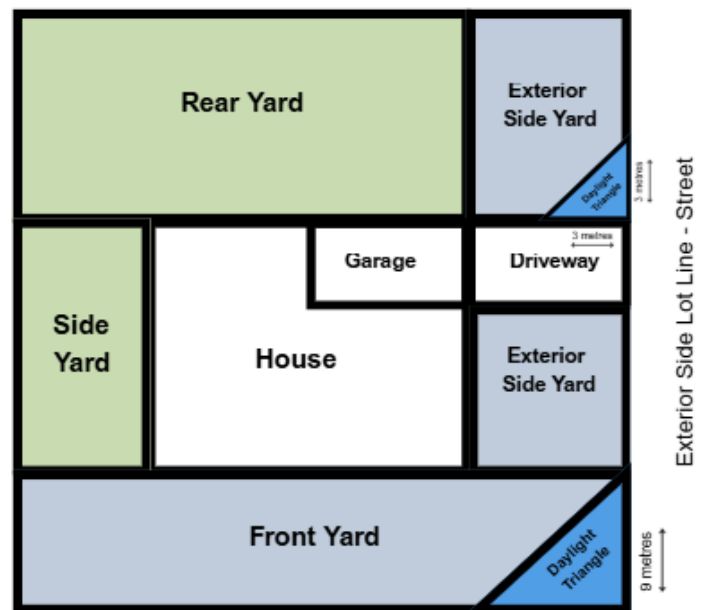
Interior Lot



Front Lot Line - Street

Height Restrictions: 2 metres 1 metre

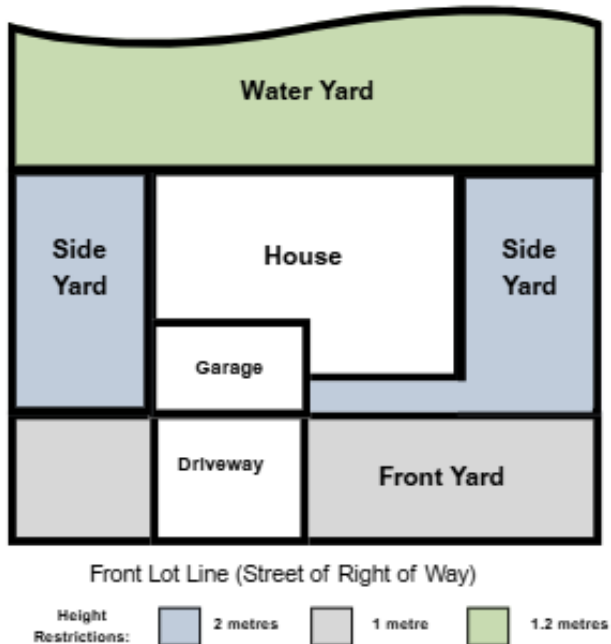
Exterior/Corner Lot



Front Lot Line - Street

Height Restrictions: 1 metre 0.6 metre 2 metres

Waterfront Lot



Please Note: That the lot lines noted on the diagrams represent the property's boundary lines. The sidewalk is not necessarily the lot line. The Township or County may own some landscaped area between your lot line and the sidewalk. Please consult your survey.

What is a daylight triangle?

It is a sight triangle at a street corner. Its purpose is to keep the corner free of obstructions so that drivers, cyclists, and pedestrians can see approaching traffic.

How it is measured

1. Start at the point where the two street lines intersect.
2. Measure **9.0 metres** along one street line and mark the point.
3. Measure **9.0 metres** along the other street line and mark the point.
4. Draw a straight line connecting these two points.
5. The triangular area formed by:
 - the two street lines, and
 - the connecting line is the **daylight triangle**
 - Fences in a daylight triangle can not exceed a height of 0.6 metre

What is a driveway daylight triangle?

It is a sight triangle at the intersection of a driveway with a street. Its purpose is to keep the corner free of obstructions so that drivers, cyclists, and pedestrians can see approaching traffic.

How it is measured

1. Start at the point where the two street lines intersect.
2. Measure **3.0 metres** along one street line and mark the point.
3. Measure **3.0 metres** along the other street line and mark the point.
4. Draw a straight line connecting these two points.
5. The triangular area formed by:
 - the two street lines, and
 - the connecting line is the **daylight triangle**.
 - Fences in a daylight triangle can not exceed a height of 0.6 metre

Where can I put the fence?

As a best practice, it is suggested that you build the fence entirely on your own property, giving you flexibility over its style and height. A survey should be referenced to ensure the fence is properly located.

Alternatively, you may build a fence along the boundary line with your neighbour's agreement, as it will be jointly owned and maintained.

Privacy Screens

Privacy screens are not permitted in front yards.

In side and rear yards, privacy screens are permitted provided they:

- Are located at least 0.6 metres from any side or rear lot line;
- Are no more than 2.43 metres high above grade; and
- Have a combined total length of no more than 6 metres on the property.

Raised decks: Where a privacy screen is installed on a raised deck, the combined height of the deck and privacy screen cannot exceed 3.5 metres above grade.

What should I know about installing a fence surrounding a pool?

A Pool Permit is required before constructing or installing a swimming pool.

- Pool fencing must be at least 1.2 m (4 ft) high and designed to prevent children from climbing over.
- Gates must be spring-loaded, self-closing and self-latching.
- Hot tubs do not require fencing but must have a secure, lockable cover that is locked when not in use.

What are the requirements for fences on non-residential properties?

Please consult the Fence By-law for requirements for fences on non-residential properties.

How can I obtain a survey?

Check your records, as you may have received a survey when purchasing your property. If unavailable, contact a qualified Land Surveyor. This can help prevent boundary disputes with neighbours.

Note: Avoid installing fencing in any easements identified by a survey.

What if my neighbour and I disagree about the fence?

Boundary-line fence disputes are a civil matter except for agricultural properties. The Line Fences Act provides a process for resolving disputes. Contact the Township Clerk for more information.

Alternatively, you may build the fence entirely on your property, giving you ownership and flexibility over its type and height, within By-law limits.

Can I get a Variance from the Fence By-law Regulations?

A variance may be authorized by the Chief Building Official if the proposed fence does not create a visual obstruction for vehicles or pedestrians.

An application, detailed site plan, fence details and the required fee are needed. The Variance application can be obtained from the Township website:

www.selwyntownship.ca.

If you have any further questions, please contact the Township of Selwyn Building Department at 705-292-9507 or by email at building@selwyntownship.ca.