



# VILLAGE OF ALGONQUIN

## DETAILED REQUIREMENTS FOR FENCES

### What is required to obtain a building permit for a fence at my home?

1. Completed permit application including the estimated cost of construction.
2. One copy of your Plat of Survey indicating the size, material, style and location of the fence marked with a highlighter pen.
3. Completed Release and Wavier Liability form (if fence is located within an easement).
4. Individual subdivision covenants may have special requirements and restrictions:

[See Subdivisions with Unique Fencing Restrictions guide.](#)

### Where on my property can a fence be located?

- Fences may only be located in side and rear yards.

**EXCEPTION:** Corner side yard fences *must* meet the following requirements:

1. Fences shall be a minimum of 36 inches and a maximum of 42 inches in height.
2. Fencing beyond the corner side building setback line shall be a minimum of 40% open.
3. The minimum setback shall be 5 feet from the property line or inner edge of the public sidewalk (whichever provides the greatest setback from the public right-of-way).
4. Fences shall be constructed of an approved material, such as: wrought iron, wrought aluminum, painted PVC, wood, cast iron, split rail, coated chain link.
5. No fence or any other obstruction including trees, bushes and shrubs shall be planted or constructed so as to obstruct sight or vision lines of passing motorists or to in any way cause a dangerous or hazardous traffic condition.

### What is the maximum height of a fence?

- Fences may not exceed 6 feet in height.

**EXCEPTION:** Privacy fencing around swimming pools, patios, and decks may be a maximum of 7 feet in height, measured from grade. Privacy fencing is permitted in the back and side yards when installed around a patio or deck, and must be immediately adjacent to the dwelling unit.

### Are there any types of fencing that are prohibited?

Several types of fencing material are prohibited for residential use. These include: barbed wire, electrified, snow fence, chicken wire/farmer's fence, masonry structures, and solid fences.

“Stockade” or “butted board” type fences shall be considered solid, unless the surface contains a minimum of three-fourths-inch (3/4”) of open space every six and three-quarter (6 3/4) lineal inches, measured either vertically or horizontally along the surface. “Alternating board” and “basket weave” style fencing shall not be considered solid.

## What are the requirements to install a front yard fence in the Old Town District?

- Fences may be placed in the front yard of properties in the Old Town District. These fences shall meet the following:
  1. Fences shall be a minimum of 36 inches and a maximum of 42 inches in height.
  2. Fence posts shall be a maximum of 48 inches in height (to allow 6 inches for decorative features such as caps or finials).
  3. Fencing shall be a minimum of 40% open (plantings around fence may not interfere with required open area).
  4. Fence shall not be closer to the street than the property line or 24 inches inside the public sidewalk (whichever provides the greater setback).
  5. Fences shall be constructed of an approved material, some recommendations include:  
**wrought iron / wrought aluminum / painted PVC / wood / cast iron / split rail**
  6. All front yard fencing shall be required to be decorative in design (contemporary styles will not be approved)
  7. A minimum 36-inch wide gate shall be installed with a direction of swing toward the house.
  8. Gate may be latched but shall not be lockable.
  - 9.

## Corner Lot Side Yard Fences.

- Height. Exterior side yard fences shall not exceed forty-two inches (42") or seventy-two inches (72") in height depending on the degree of openness. Height shall be measured from the average grade of the exterior side yard.
- Degree of Openness. Exterior side yard fences that are up to forty-two inches (42") in height shall be at least forty percent (40%) permeable by light and air when viewed perpendicular to the plane of the fence, and as determined by calculating the surface area of the slats, posts, bars, or other solid materials in relation to the effective surface area of the apertures. The height of an exterior side yard fence may be increased to seventy-two inches Chapter 21, Section 15, Page 6 5/21/24 (72") if the degree of openness is a minimum of sixty percent (60%) permeable by light and air.
- Setback. Exterior side yard fences shall be set back a minimum of 5 feet from the property line or 5 feet from the inner edge of the public sidewalk closest to the building whichever provides the greater setback from the public right-of-way.
- Materials and Style. Exterior side yard fences shall be constructed of wrought (forged) iron, cast iron, split rail, wrought or cast aluminum or PVC painted to resemble iron (replica aluminum) or wood, or sawn wood posts or wood pickets or coated chain link. Support posts may be made of the same material or of stone or masonry. Board-on-board, basket weave, stockade, or similar types of fence styles shall not be permitted in exterior side yards. Fence colors shall be related naturally to their styles and be compatible with the architectural design of the building on the lot where the fence is to be erected.

## Can my fence be built so the bottom is in contact with the ground?

- The bottom of fences built in a side yard swale shall be a minimum of 3 inches above finished grade.
- The bottom of fences built in a drainage easement shall be a minimum of 4 inches above finished grade.
- The bottom of all other fences shall be a minimum of 2 inches above finished grade.

## What are the general requirements for all approved fences?



- All posts shall be placed such that the below-grade depth is equal to one-third (1/3) the length of the post used. Minimum 36" deep.
- Signs placed on fences or posts advertising fence contractors or companies are prohibited.
- Any fence that has an unfinished side shall be erected so the unfinished side and supporting members face inward.
- The bottom of fencing installed within a drainage easement shall be a minimum of 4 inches above the finished grade.
- Fencing installed as a swimming pool barrier may have additional requirements.

### **What are the code requirements for all approved fences?**

- Fences can be installed all the way up to the property line in rear and side yards.
- Fences are allowed to be installed up to the building line in the front yard.
- ALL FENCES must be erected so that the posts and supports face towards the owner's property.

# READY FOR INSPECTIONS?

## NO SAME DAY INSPECTIONS

|  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <p><b>CALL:</b><br/>847-658-2700<br/>Select option 3</p> | <p><b>ONLINE:</b><br/><a href="https://css.algonquin.org/CSS/">https://css.algonquin.org/CSS/</a></p>  <p>SCAN ME</p> | <p><b>DO-IT-YOURSELF:</b><br/>Doors &amp; Windows, Driveway Final,<br/>Fence Final, Ice &amp; Water Shield,<br/>Siding Final</p>  <p>SCAN ME</p> |
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### REQUIRED INSPECTIONS:

1. Post-Hole Inspection – Schedule at least 24 hrs. in advance (or by 3 pm the day before) when the holes are ready for inspection.
2. Final Inspection – Schedule once all work has been completed.

### USEFUL INFORMATION:

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION**  
CONTACT **J.U.L.I.E 1-800-892-0123**  
BEFORE YOU DIG  
48 HOURS BEFORE YOU DIG  
EXCLUDING SATURDAYS, SUNDAYS AND HOLIDAYS



# VILLAGE OF ALGONQUIN PROPERTY OWNER RELEASE AND WAIVER OF LIABILITY

In consideration for my undertaking the installation of any improvements upon the Village of Algonquin right-of-ways, public utility easements or drainage easements at \_\_\_\_\_, I understand and acknowledge that I do so at my own risk.

In signing this Release and Waiver of Liability, I, as property owner of the property located at below, for myself and my successors and assigns, hereby forever release the Village of Algonquin, its officers, employees, agents, successors and assigns from any and all liability, damages, suits, claims and demands for damages at law or equity including, but not limited to, property damage to said improvements, which I now have or may have hereafter on account of or in any way arising out of any actions on the part of the Village of Algonquin including the Village's maintenance or work upon its right-of-ways, public utility easements or drainage easements. I agree to remove or relocate said improvement(s) upon the Village of Algonquin's request.

In signing this Release and Waiver of Liability, I also agree to indemnify and hold harmless the Village of Algonquin, its officers, employees and agents from any and all liability, damages, suits, claims and demands for damages at law or equity which someone other than myself may have or may have hereafter on account of or in any way related to property damage to any and all improvements placed upon a Village right-of-way, public utility easement or drainage easement, on or account of or in any way related to the installation of said improvements, including any liens or personal or other injuries which may arise during or subsequent to the installation of said improvements.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Property Owner's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Property Owner's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Property Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Improvement: \_\_\_\_\_

**Individual subdivision covenants may have special requirements and restrictions:**

**[See Subdivisions with Unique Fencing Restrictions guide.](#)**

**Email completed Waiver of Liability Form to [Permits@algonquin.org](mailto:Permits@algonquin.org)**



**Open Fence**  
(ex. picket, spaced picket, rail, etc.)



**Semi-Open Fence**  
(ex. board-on-board, shadowbox, etc.)



**Solid Fence**  
(ex. board-to-board, privacy, etc.)



**Minimum 3/4" spacing between boards.**

## Are there any types of fencing that are prohibited?

Several types of fencing material are prohibited for residential use. These include:

1. Barbed wire, electrified, snow fence, chicken wire/farmer's fence, masonry structures, or solid fences.

|                |   |                  |                      |
|----------------|---|------------------|----------------------|
| Document Title | <b>Fence Permit - Plat of Survey Corner Lot Example</b> |                  |                      |
| Revision No    | Date  | Revision Details | Author               |
| 1.0            | 9/23/2024   | First Issue      | Village of Algonquin |

FENCE AREA  
 - - - DRAINAGE \* UTILITY EASEMENT  
 72" HEIGHT FENCE - 3/4" SPACING  
 36" - 42" HEIGHT FENCE - 40% OPEN  
 72" HEIGHT FENCE3 - 60% OPEN  
 FENCE MUST BE 5' FROM SIDEWALK

Fence height on this side of the building line:  
 36" - 42" with 40% open  
 or 72" with 60% open



|                |   |                  |                      |
|----------------|---|------------------|----------------------|
| Document Title | <b>Fence Permit - Plat of Survey Non-Corner Lot Example</b> |                  |                      |
| Revision No    | Date  | Revision Details | Author               |
| 1.0            | 9/23/2024   | First Issue      | Village of Algonquin |

