

City of O'Fallon Building Safety Department

City of O'Fallon, Missouri
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Fence / Decorative Post Information

All fences & decorative posts constructed in the City Limits, which meet or exceed 30 inches in height, need to have permits issued prior to construction. **Fences are defined as:** Any ground mounted structures erected to serve as a barricade or to enclose an area. **Decorative Posts are defined as:** Ornamental poles or stakes with attached chains, wood or other material, which serve only aesthetic purposes. (Exception: Temp. protective fencing used during excavation, construction, grading, or other earthwork is permitted without issuance of a fence permit.)

Permits, in most cases, will be issued within 5 to 7 days after completed information is submitted. There is a \$10.00 application fee that is also required. **Applications must be accompanied by a plot plan of the property indicating the location of the fence and gate(s) and/or decorative posts on the lot.**

Allowable Fence Materials: All fencing materials must be contiguous; any fencing that is installed on a piece of property must be of the same material and design as the existing fence

- Acceptable materials for fencing and decorative posts include but are not limited to: brick, stone, and other masonry; synthetic materials; natural and treated woods; wrought iron; decorative aluminum, and chain link.
 - PVC and other synthetic materials used for both residential and commercial fencing applications shall meet the minimum quality standards set forth in the ordinance.
 - Chain link shall only be permitted residential and industrial zoning; it cannot be used in commercially zoned areas.
- Prohibited materials for fencing and decorative posts include but are not limited to: barbed wire; razor wire; hardware cloth; wire mesh; and electrified fencing.
 - Barbed wire can be used on security fences in industrially zoned areas, provided the fence has a minimum height of 5 feet, 6 inches and the property owner has applied for and received a conditional use permit as outlined in Chapter 400 Article VII.

Placement:

- The maximum height for fencing, accompanying structures & decorative posts is 6 feet, 6 inches. (Bufferyard and screening uses may exceed the maximum height if required by ordinance or with an approved Conditional Use Permit.)
- Fences/decorative posts must remain on or within the property lines, may not be placed in the State right-of-way without a State Permit, and if constructed on or within an easement, are subject to removal without compensation.
- Installation of a fence may not obstruct any manhole or inlet covers nor disturb/impede existing drainage patterns/swales or natural water flows.
- Decorative posts, under 30 inches in height, may be located no closer than 2 feet to the front yard or street yard property line.
- Fencing is not to be built forward of the front yard building line, EXCEPT on lots with more than one street frontage, fences may project up to 10 feet over the building line in the side yard(s) adjacent to the street(s).
- Fences/decorative posts may be located on any property line abutting a side or rear yard that is not a street frontage yard.
- In addition to the placement regulations stated, no fencing or decorative posts shall be placed within a 25-foot sight triangle or otherwise impede vehicular or pedestrian vision.
- All fence enclosures are required to have a minimum 3-foot opening/gate on any street side of such enclosure.
- The finished side of the fence must face outward-***visible supports and other structural components shall face in toward the subject property.***
- City approval does not constitute subdivision approval.
- Construction must be initiated within 6 months and completed within 12 months.
- Fencing around pools and water features shall be continuous at a minimum height of 4-feet and must also comply with the current IRC (Building) Codes. (Exception: 42-inch tall chain link fencing installed prior to 4/5/99)