

## ARTICLE X DIVISION 4- FENCES AND WALLS

### Sec. 138-3700. – Purpose and intent.

Fences and walls should be used to define ownership, create privacy, ensure protection, and provide screening. Fences and walls should be designed and sited to ensure their intended purpose while recognizing and responding to the community character and ensuring public safety.

### Sec. 138-3701. – Definitions, as used in this section.

- Decorative* as applied to walls means that a wall is masonry with a stucco finish; has a finish of natural materials, such as brick, stone, or glass block; or has a finish which is accepted for use in the industry.
- Decorative* as applied to fences means that a fence is made of PVC fence material, wrought iron, or aluminum pickets, or is a painted or stained shadow-box or board-on-board type fence.
- Hedge* means a continuous arrangement of three or more shrubs for the purpose of screening or dividing spaces which are planted and maintained to create an open space less than two feet wide by six feet high between each shrub.
- Semi-opaque* means and includes fence and wall components which have opacity of 25 percent or less, excluding vertical support posts, for the purpose of maintaining some visibility.



Stucco



Brick



Stone



Glass Block



PVC



Aluminum picket



Painted



Shadow Box



Board on Board



Hedge



Semi Opaque

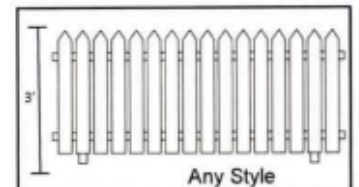


Semi Opaque w/ Decorative Top

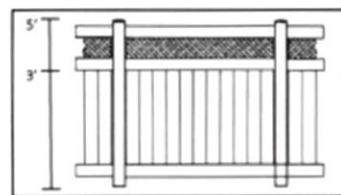
### Sec. 138-3702. – General requirements.

- Residential fences and walls.** In residential districts, walls and fences are subject to the following height limits:

- Within the required side and rear setback area: **six feet** for a fence or wall of any style; or **eight feet** for a decorative fence or wall along secondary arterial and collector frontages.
- With the required front setback area:



- a. Three feet for a fence or wall of any style; additional height may be added for semi-opaque decorative toppers, the complete fence or wall shall not exceed a total height of five feet.
- b. Four feet for a decorative fence or wall; additional height may be added for semi-opaque decorative toppers, the complete fence or wall shall not exceed a total height of five feet.
- c. Eight feet for a decorative fence or wall when one of the following conditions apply:

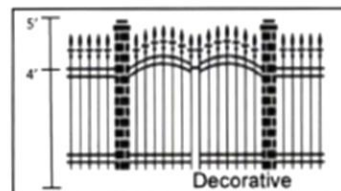


- 1. The fence or wall encloses the perimeter of a development adjacent to roads classified as collector streets or arterial roads. In such case:

It must be located at least two feet from the right-of-way and shall be landscaped with two trees for each 100 lineal feet and hedge material planted, in keeping with the intent of Chapter 166, Article II. Trees should be planted at least five feet in distance from the wall to allow adequate room

for growth. Hedges within sight triangles must be maintained at no more than three feet above pavement.

The fence or wall must be reviewed and approved as part of a site plan or as a modification to an approved site plan. This includes the requirement that plans submitted be signed and sealed by a registered professional engineer in the State of Florida, thereby certifying that the fence or wall as proposed will not cause a sight distance obstruction for vehicles maneuvering on the adjacent or any nearby street system. Minimum sight triangle requirements for maintaining adequate sight distance are detailed in the appendix to this section.



- 2. The subject property is a corner lot, double frontage lot, or other multiple frontage lot, and the fence will be located within a setback area from the adjacent right-of-way for which the property is not addressed. In such case, the applicant must obtain from the county traffic engineer a written statement of no objection that the fence as proposed will not cause a sight distance obstruction for vehicles maneuvering on the adjacent or any nearby street system. Such statement shall be in accordance with standard safe engineering practices as established by Pinellas County. The applicant for such permit shall provide to Pinellas County detailed information to show that these conditions are met.

- b) *Rural residential districts (R-A, R-E and R-R).* Split rail fences may be permitted up to six (6) feet within the required front setback area. Such fences shall maintain at least 50% transparency.

- c) **Non-residential fences and walls.** In non-residential districts, walls and fences are subject to the following height limits:

1) Within the required side and rear setback area: six feet for a fence or wall of any style, except when required as part of a Type 2 Review (special exception) or (Type 3 Review (conditional use) approval.

2) Within the required front setback area:

- a. Three feet for a fence or wall of any style; additional height may be added for semi-opaque decorative toppers, the complete fence or wall shall not exceed a total height of five feet.
- b. Four feet for a decorative fence or wall; additional height may be added for semi-opaque decorative toppers, the complete fence or wall shall not exceed a total height of five feet.
- c. Six feet for a decorative fence or wall, provided the applicant satisfies the requirements of Subsection 138- 3702(a)(2)c.

#### **Sec. 138-3703. – Materials and conditions.**

Fences or walls may be constructed of any of the following standard fencing materials: wrought iron, brick, concrete block, plastic, vinyl, chain link, or wood products that are typically prefabricated and are commercially available. All fences and walls shall be maintained in good repair and all surfaces thereof shall be kept painted or have similar protective coating where customarily necessary. Any departure from the materials prescribed by this section shall require the approval of the county administrator or his/her designee.

**Sec. 138-3704. – Barbed wire or electrical strands.**

Barbed wire or electrical strands or similar type of fencing, when permitted, shall be no greater than six feet in height. The use of such type of fencing is permitted only as follows:

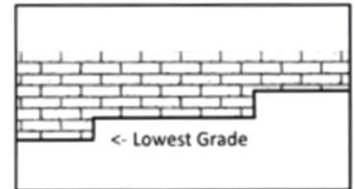
- a) Barbed wire may be used on security fences in nonresidential districts.
- b) Barbed wire may be used as part of agricultural activities.
- c) Barbed wire or electrical strands or similar type of fencing may be used when specifically authorized in conjunction with a Type 2 Review (special exception) or a Type 3 Review (conditional use).



**Sec. 138-3705. – Measurement of height.**

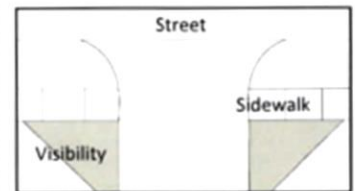
The maximum height of fences or walls shall be measured as follows:

- a) From lowest adjacent grade to the uppermost horizontal member or members.
- b) Wire strands (except certain permitted barbed wire strands described in section 138-3704) may not exceed 18 inches above the minimum height requirement for such wire).
- c) No post, pilaster, or light with a cross-sectional dimension of 18 inches or less shall be counted toward height except within a front yard setback area. Berms or other mounds above normal grade shall be considered part of the height measurement.
- d) Fences placed on retaining walls shall include the retaining wall height as part of the overall permitted height unless a minimum separation of three (3) feet is provided between the edge of the retaining wall and fence.



**Sec. 138-3706. – Visibility.**

- a) *At intersections.* No fence or wall shall be permitted at a corner within 15 feet of the intersection of the right-of-way lines.
- b) *Sidewalks.* The placement and height of fences and walls shall be guided by the minimum sight triangle requirements for maintaining adequate sight distance as described in section 138-3508 and in the "visibility triangle for sidewalk traffic" diagram in the appendix to this section.



**Additional examples:**



Chain link



Wrought Iron



Stained



Split Rail



Semi Opaque—Do this



Semi Opaque—Do this



Semi Opaque—Not this



Commercial Metal—Not this