

FENCE PERMITTING INFORMATION

City of Cleveland Heights
Application available at www.citizenserve.com/clevelandheights

Updated: August 2025

A fence permit is required for any fence constructed or installed in the City of Cleveland Heights. Fence permits are granted through Building Department. The regulations that apply to fence size and placement also apply to masonry and stone walls, but masonry and stone walls require a building permit, rather than a fence permit. If you are planning to build a masonry or stone wall, please review the size and placement limitations below.

Architectural Board of Review

Architectural Board of Review (ABR) approval, which is a separate approval process, is required when a proposed fence/wall is located in the front yard or on a corner lot. Replacement of an existing fence/wall still requires ABR if it is located in the previously identified locations. ABR approval is needed before a permit can be issued. All commercial fences/walls require ABR approval before a permit can be issued.

Height

In residential zoning districts, the maximum height for fences is as follows:

- **Primary front yard:** 4 feet
- **Secondary front yard** (previously called the corner side yard): 6 feet
- **Side yard:** 6 feet
- **Rear yard:** 6 feet
- **Note:** In addition to the regulations above, when a fence will be next to a house (including houses on neighboring properties), the height of the fence is limited to the distance between the fence and the house. For example, a fence located 3 feet away from a house could be no more than 3 feet tall.

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- **Secondary front yard** (previously called the corner side yard): 6 feet
- **Side yard:** 6 feet
- **Rear yard:** 6 feet

Location

- Fences can be on the property line (0-foot setback).
- In residential districts, fences must be at least 3 feet from garages (including garages on neighboring properties) that are parallel to the fence.

Materials

- Barbed-wire fencing is not permitted.
- Chain-link or wire-mesh fencing is not permitted in primary or secondary front yards (previously called the corner side yard).
- In residential districts, the structural parts of the fence are required to face the property of the fence owner.

Landscaping

- A landscaping plan is required with the fence permit when the fence is parallel to and visible from the public street and longer than 10 feet. Landscaping is encouraged between the fence the sidewalk.

Deer Netting

- No fence permit is required for temporary deer netting.
- Deer netting is only permitted around vegetable/edible and flower gardens.
- Deer netting can be 6 feet tall.
- Deer netting must be removed at the end of the growing season.

For additional questions, contact the Planning & Development Department (planning@clevelandheights.gov) or 216-291-4878). Complaints about fences should be submitted to the Mayor's Action Center (<https://www.clevelandheights.gov/842/Mayors-Action-Center>).