



Residential Fences and Walls

Do you know Fairfax County's rules for fences and walls?

Regulations differ based on the type of lot and fence or wall, but generally:

- All Fences and Walls must comply with Article 10-104 of the Zoning Ordinance, which regulates their location and height.
- In a front yard, with corner lots having two or more front yards, a fence or wall cannot exceed four (4) feet in height, except:
 - With Board of Zoning Appeals approval, up to six (6) feet in height may be permitted.
 - In parts of certain corner lots abutting major thoroughfares, up to eight (8) feet may be permitted.
 - On lots of two (2) or more acres in the R-A through R-1 Districts, up to seven (7) feet in height may be permitted.
- In a side or rear yard, a fence or wall cannot exceed seven (7) feet in height, except up to eight (8) feet may be permitted in the side and rear yards of a reverse frontage lot and those portions of a side or rear yard that are within 150 feet of a major thoroughfare and abut open space.
- Building Permits are not required for fences of any height, unless the fence is required for pedestrian safety or when used as the barrier for a swimming pool. Then a permit is required.
- Building Permits are required for concrete or masonry walls six (6) feet or greater in height.
- Retaining walls with more than three (3) feet of unbalanced fill also require a building permit.
- For more information about Building Permits, call 703-222-0801.



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To request this information in an alternate format, call the Department of Code Compliance.

This Fairfax County, VA Publication (published August 2016) summarizes a few regulations. See relevant codes for specific requirements.