



CITY OF ST. JOSEPH

www.cityofstjoseph.com

RESIDENTIAL FENCES

This handout provides general information regarding fencing requirements in St. Joseph. The City of St. Joseph requires a fence building permit prior to installing a fence. Contact the City Planning Department with questions on fence requirements at 320.229.9424.



Know what's below.
Call before you dig.

Before you dig contact Gopher State One at 811 or online at www.gopherstateonecall.org to locate and mark utilities in your yard.



HEIGHT

Front Yard Maximum Height: 4 feet
Side & Rear Yard Maximum Height: 7 feet

YARDS

The front yard is the area extending across the front of the lot between the side lot lines and lying between the front line of a lot and the nearest line of the building.

SETBACKS

Maintenance free fencing: Up to but not on the property line.

Wood fencing: Two feet from the property line.

No fence shall be constructed closer than two feet to a property line where it is parallel to an existing fence to avoid creating an area that has limited access for fence and property maintenance.

Fences shall not obstruct the ability of a driver to see other drivers or pedestrians on any street or alley.

EASEMENTS

Constructing a fence within an easement may be permitted provided there are no underlying utility structures within the easement and contingent on approval by the Public Works Director. An easement use application must be submitted with your fence application. If any utility work or drainage improvements are required within the easement, the fence may be removed at the property owner's expense.

LOCATING PROPERTY LINES

Property owners are responsible for locating property lines by locating property irons with the use of a metal detector. If you cannot locate the property irons, contact a local Land Surveyor.

The City of St. Joseph does not locate property lines. However, the City may be able to provide you with your property dimensions.

MATERIALS

Fences may be constructed of wood, vinyl, plastic, wrought iron, or chain link. The finished side (nice side) shall face adjacent property.