

Fences in Residential Zones

Some people find fences to be a reasonable safety feature. They can help contain young children. They can help keep animals in or out of a yard. Fences can also be a neighbor-breaker. Problems often occur regarding the placement of fences and the maintenance of fences.

Fence Regulations

- Fences are permitted on residential properties as long as they are not over four (4) feet in height in the front yard. A front yard can be said to be the area in front of the house toward the street. Corner lots have two front yards.
- Fences are permitted on residential properties as long as they are not over six (6) feet along side yards and rear yards. Side yards can be said to be the area of land between the front building line of the house and the rear building line of the house. A rear yard can generally be said to be the area of land between the rear building line of the house and the rear property line.
- A fence permit of \$25.00 is required before erecting a fence.
- A fence permit is not required for replacing an existing fence.
- Fences may be constructed of wood, vinyl, metal, fiberglass, chain-link, or a combination of materials.
- Fences shall be constructed according to building codes. Contact Bangor Building Inspector Charles Moore (427-8328) to determine the codes that may be applicable to your fence.

Suggestions for Good Neighbors

- The City of Bangor does not require that a finished side of the fence face away from the owner's property. However, you may want to consider what you would like to see if your neighbor put up a fence. Good neighbors often put a finished side toward their neighbors.
- The City of Bangor allows a fence to be built on the property line. However, you may want to be sure just where your property line is before putting up a fence. It may be possible that you and your neighbor(s) can agree on the location of the property line. Then again, you may not agree. You may wish to view the sheet titled "Where Are My Property Lines." You may also want to contact a surveyor before erecting your fence.
- The City of Bangor allows a fence to be built on your property line. However, you are responsible for maintaining your fence. You will need to determine if you can or cannot go on your neighbor's property to maintain your fence. If you cannot, you may wish to move your fence in at least a foot or more to allow you space from which you can maintain your fence without going on your neighbors property.
- Disputes between neighbors are a matter for the civil courts, not the City of Bangor.