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DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT

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Installing Fences - Residential

Waterford Township does not require a permit for the construction of a fence on a residentially zoned property. While the fence may be located on any property line, it is the property owner's responsibility to know the location of the property line and to follow the Ordinance requirements as follows:

Waterford Township Zoning Ordinance, Article III, Division 3-3, Section 3-302.7

Fences shall follow the contour of the ground upon which they are secured, subject only to the flexibility limitations of the fencing materials used. Therefore, the height at any given location along a fence shall be measured from a point on the ground perpendicular to the fence height point being measured. Where pre-constructed fence panels limit fencing from following the ground's contour between the fence posts upon which a fence panel is secured, the height of the fence shall be measured from the closest point on the ground perpendicular to where the fence panel is secured to a fence post. All fences of any kind located in single-family residential districts shall conform to the following regulations:

1. Fences may be located on any property line provided that no fence shall be higher than four (4) feet above the grade plane in any required front yard or lake front yard, or on any lot line bordering a required front yard or corner street front yard. Fences located on any other property line shall be no higher than six (6) feet above the grade plane. For zoning lots with an immediate grade differential along the property line, the intent of this subsection is to allow the maximum fence height to be measured from the highest points of the grade differential along the property line, provided the fence height is not a clear vision obstruction to the movement of motorized and nonmotorized traffic.
2. All fences shall be constructed of materials listed in the SPL Manual to meet all standards of the ***Waterford Code of Ordinances, Buildings and Building Regulations*** and shall be adequately maintained to be safe and in good condition.
3. Fences located off the property line and not within any required yard shall not exceed eight (8) feet in height above the grade plane.

4. Barbed wire, spikes, nails or any other sharp pointed protrusions of any kind are prohibited on top or on the sides of any fence, wall or protective barrier. For purposes of this subsection, the term "sharp pointed protrusions" shall be defined as meaning all fence material extending above the highest continuous horizontal fence component and possessing a horizontal surface area at the tip of each protrusion that is less than 0.0625 square inch, with the width and/or depth of this horizontal surface area measuring less than 0.25 lineal inch.
5. Electrical fences above grade shall be prohibited.

Waterford Code of Ordinances, Interim SPL Manual, Section SPL-001

All fences shall be constructed of poured concrete, masonry, redwood, cedar, number 1 pressure treated wood, wrought iron, vinyl, or chain link. If another material is used by a fence manufacturer, such material may be used after receiving written authorization from the Zoning Official. Concrete slabs, cinder blocks, or objects created for other purposes (such as doors) are prohibited from use as fencing. All supporting members used in the fence shall face inside and away from adjoining properties.