



Residential Fencing Regulations

The City of Commerce adopted a Unified Development Code which includes standards for fencing. These standards listed below can also be found online on our website at www.commercega.gov under the Planning & Development tab and then open the link to the Unified Development Code.

-Section 3-036 Fence, Wall, and/or Screening:

-Access: All fences and walls must allow for utility meter access at all times.

-Gates: In those instances where a fence/wall is erected as an enclosure which restricts access from the front to the rear yards, a gate shall be installed to allow access to the meter/s for maintenance and reading purposes. -A gate shall be a minimum of 3 feet in width. -The use of cattle gates shall be prohibited.

-Height: In a front yard of a dwelling in a residential zoning district abutting a public street, no fence or wall shall exceed 4 feet in height. In a side or rear yard of a dwelling in a residential zoning district, fences and walls shall not exceed 6 feet 8 inches in height. No fence or wall in any zoning district shall exceed 8 feet in height, unless otherwise required as determined by the City Engineer, Building or Zoning Official.

-Location: Fences and walls are not subject to setbacks for buildings or accessory structures and can be placed on a side or rear property line. Fences and walls shall not encroach on public right of way without the approval of the City officials above. Right Of Way may vary and are best found by obtaining a copy of the parcel's recorded plat from the Jackson County Courthouse by visiting the Clerk of Courts Office. This will need to be done by the citizens and at their expense. A copy of the recorded plat will be required when fence and wall installations are proposed to be installed near or on the right of way. A good rule of thumb to stay off the right of way is to place the fence or wall behind the power pole, transformer, water meter, etc. to ensure you stay off the right of way. **The City of Commerce will not replace or be held liable for the removal of fencing during utility emergencies when fencing is installed in the ROW.**

-Materials Prohibited: Fences and walls shall not be composed of plywood, particle board, paper, plastic, plastic tarp, tires, pallets, garage doors, canvas, glass block, bottles, bamboo, recycled or discarded materials, or any other cast-off, secondhand, or other items not originally intended to be used for constructing a fence or wall. In residential zoning districts, no fence or wall shall be constructed of hog wire, barbed wire, poultry netting, razor wire, or any other agricultural roll type fencing.

-Chain Link: Residential Zoning Districts: -non vinyl coated chain link is permitted in a rear/side yard only such that the fence does not extend beyond the front building line of the dwelling. **-All types of chain link fencing are prohibited for use within the front yard/forward of the front building line of the dwelling.** Chain link fences with plastic, vinyl, or metal slats/inserts are prohibited. -In residential areas, wood, stone, chain link, vinyl and composite materials are allowed following the above guidelines.

-Permit Required: A fence or wall that requires an engineered foundation according to the building code shall require a permit to be approved and issued by the Building Official prior to erection.