



Commercial Fence Permit

1104 Maple Street Sumner, WA 98390
253-299-5530 www.sumnerwa.gov

Return completed form to the Permit Center - allisonj@sumnerwa.gov

Applicant Address:

Sumner Municipal Code Requirements for Commercial Fences

Fences have a visual and economic impact on properties and neighborhoods. The City is providing this information to ensure that fences are an added value to the property owner as well as the community. It is the property owner's responsibility to follow the provisions of this section of the Sumner Municipal Code.

Height

The allowable height of a fence depends on where it is located on your lot. As a general rule, the closer to the front or street side lot line the shorter it must be. Fences built at a street or alley intersection must meet the **sight distance requirements**.

- The maximum height for a fence in the required front yard setback (25 feet) is 3 feet, or 4 feet if the fence provides 50 percent visibility. Chain link in the front or side yards are required to be black or green coated.
- The maximum height for all fences in commercial zones is 6 feet, or 8 feet for commercial sites meeting SMC 18.16.080(M) (8) (b). Exceptions are allowed for a trellis, arbor or other as noted in the code.

Prohibited Fences

Some fence materials are not appropriate in the commercial zone.

- No barbed wire, razor wire, or electric fences are allowed in the commercial zone unless exceptions apply.

Arbors and Trellises

Arbors and trellises are decorative elements added to a fence. An **arbor** is defined as a structure that is attached to a fence or is freestanding and serves to define a gate or entranceway located in the front or side yard.

A **trellis** is a vertical structure attached to a fence comprised of lattice work designed to support the growth of vines or other vegetation, or a horizontal decorative element composed of lattice work that is predominantly open in design.

- Arbors may be a maximum of 9 feet in height and 8 feet in width.
- The maximum allowable width of a horizontal trellis is 36 inches.
- A trellis of up to two additional feet over the maximum fence height may be added as a decorative element.
- Horizontal trellises may not encroach onto adjacent properties.

Fences over 6 feet require a posted building permit.

By signing this informational permit you acknowledge your understanding of the fence code and agree to abide by its requirements.

Applicant _____ Date _____

Exceptions

Some facilities are in need of a taller fence, or one located within the setbacks. The following exceptions are defined in Chapter SMC 18.04.

- Public facilities & stormwater detention
- Minor and major utility facilities
- Wireless communication facilities
- Commercial sites that demonstrate need per SMC 18.16.080(M)(8)(b)

Sight Distance Requirements

On a street corner intersection, alley, or driveway, there are sight distance requirements that must be met. This is basically two lines that extend along streets, the street and alley or street and driveway. The line connecting those points through your yard is the **sight distance triangle**, where no solid fence or other physical obstruction is permitted over three feet high, or four feet if providing 50% visibility.

- For street and alley rights-of-way the measurements are 20 feet from the corner down the property lines.
- For driveways, the measurement is 20 feet along the edge of the driveway and 10 feet along the shoulder or curb line of the right-of-way.

Stormwater Detention

Fences enclosing stormwater ponds shall meet the requirements of SMC 18.16.080 (M) (4).

