



Residential 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 Residential Fences

Fences have a visual and economic impact on properties and neighborhoods. The City is providing this information to ensure that fences built within the City of Sumner 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 or street side yard setback is 3 feet, or 4 feet if the fence provides 50 percent visibility. In multifamily zones, chain link fences in the front or side yard are required to be black or green coated.
- The maximum height for all fences in residential zones is 6 feet. Exceptions are allowed for a trellis, arbor or other as noted in the code.
- Corner lots along minor arterials may construct a fence to the maximum height along the minor arterial if all sight distance requirements are met.

Prohibited Fences

Some fence materials are not appropriate for the residential zone.

- No barbed wire, razor wire, or electric fences are allowed in the residential zone.

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 2 feet over the maximum fence height may be added as a decorative element.
- Horizontal trellises may not encroach onto adjacent properties.

Exceptions

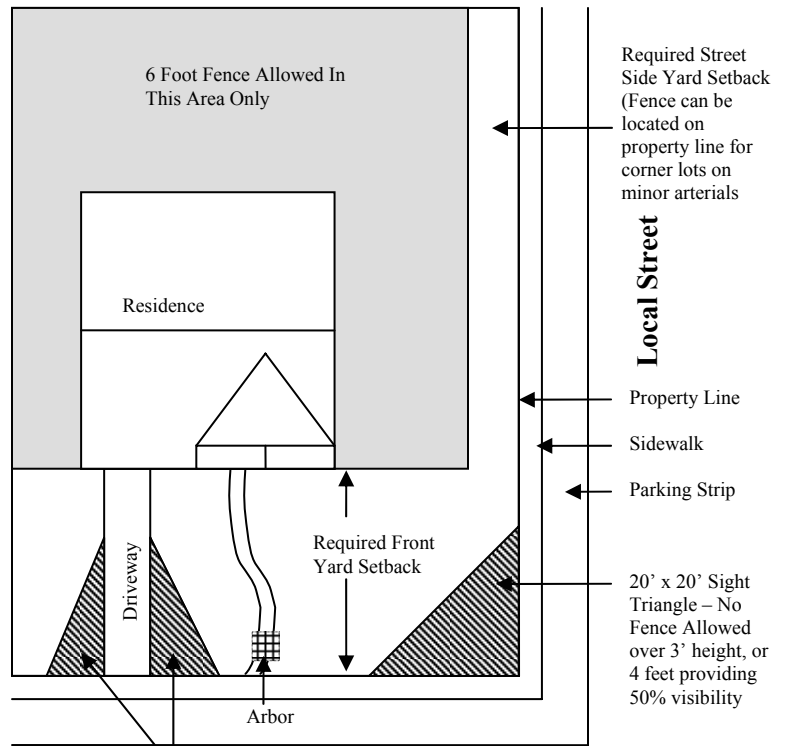
Some facilities are in need of a taller fence, or one located within the setbacks. The following exceptions are defined in Chapter SMC 18.04.

- Public facilities & stormwater detention
- Minor and major utility facilities
- Wireless communication facilities

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 3 feet high, or 4 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.



20' x 10' Sight Triangles - No Solid Fence Allowed over 3' height, or 4 feet providing 50% visibility

Local Street

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 _____