



Residential Fences and Walls

Do you know Fairfax County's rules for fences and walls?

On residential lots, regulations may differ based on various factors, but generally:

- All fences and walls must comply with Article 4 of the Zoning Ordinance, which regulates their location and height.
- In a front yard, a fence or wall cannot exceed four feet in height, except:
 - On lots of two or more acres in the R-A through R-1 Districts, up to seven feet in height is permitted in any yard.
 - With Board of Zoning Appeals approval of a special permit application, the maximum permitted front yard fence height may be increased up to six feet.
- On corner lots, there are two or more front yards, in which fences and walls cannot exceed four feet in height, except as provided above.
- In a side or rear yard, a fence or wall is limited to seven feet in height, except that a solid wood fence or a masonry wall located flush to the ground may be up to eight feet in height in the rear yard that abuts a major thoroughfare, or where a side or rear lot line is within 150 feet of a major thoroughfare and abuts common or dedicated open space located between the lot and the major thoroughfare.
- Building Permits are not typically required for fences of any height. However, if a fence is required for pedestrian safety or as a barrier for a swimming pool, a building permit is required.
- Building Permits are required for concrete or masonry walls six feet or greater in height.
- Retaining walls with more than three feet of unbalanced fill also require a building permit. For more information about Building Permits, please call 703-222-0801, TTY 711.



To report a possible violation :

**Fairfax County Department of Code Compliance
12055 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, VA 22035**

Phone: 703-324-1300, TTY 711

Web: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/code



To request this information in an alternate format, call the Department of Code Compliance.

This Fairfax County, VA Publication (published July 2021) summarizes a few regulations. See relevant codes for specific requirements.