

FENCES

111 N Front Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215
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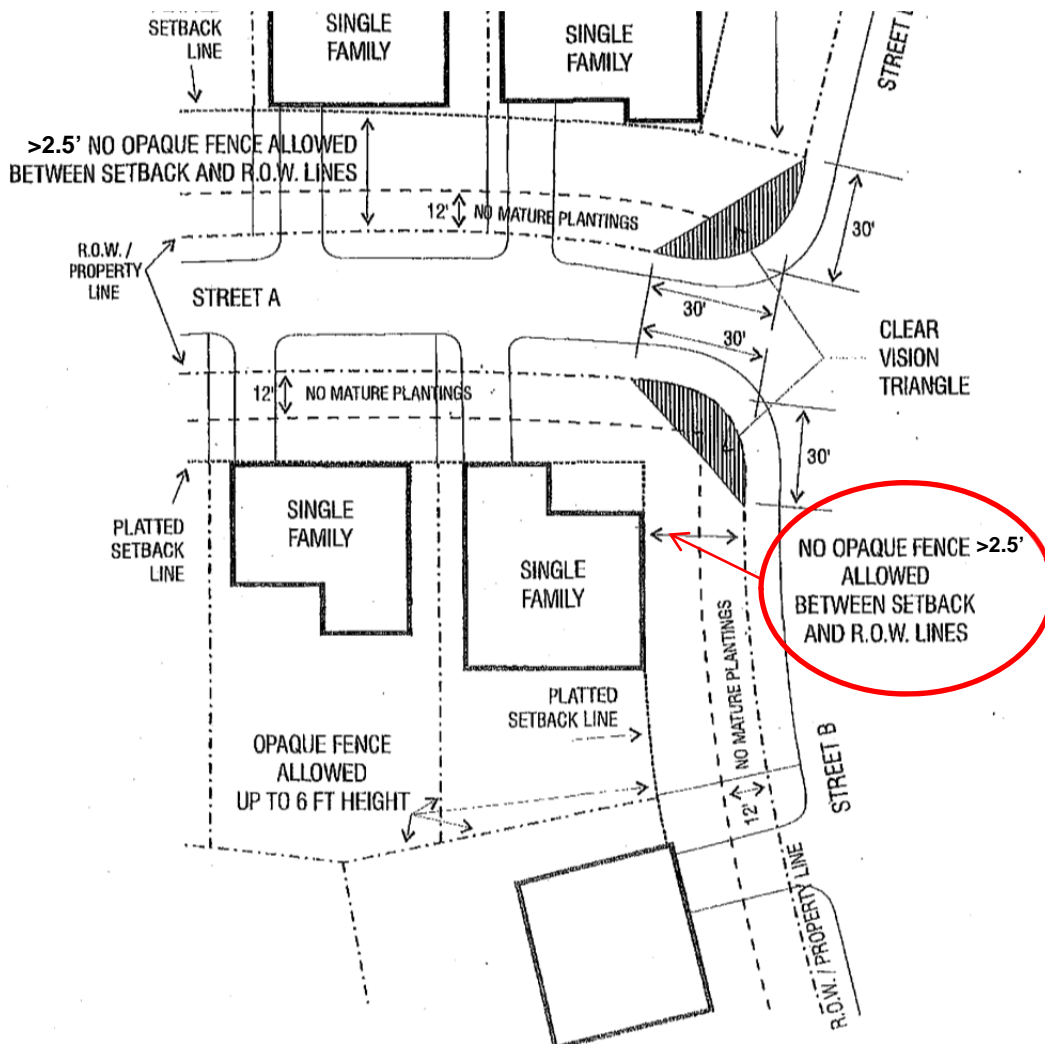
The Columbus Zoning Code regulates the height and location of a fence public or private. Deed restrictions, easements or covenants may also prohibit certain kinds of fences or specify allowed locations of fences in the subdivision. The city does not regulate or enforce deed restrictions or easements; other homeowners or civic associations in a subdivision may regulate them as well as other subdivision rules.

A few things to remember:

1. Fences 6 feet or less in height are not regulated as a structure and can be placed in the rear yard with no setback from the property lines.
2. Know property lines to avoid possible disputes with a neighbor. The city does not locate property lines or mediate property line disputes resulting from misplaced fences. A fence 6 feet or less in height does not require a building permit, but the Zoning Code regulates the placement of fences even if they are less than 6 feet tall under certain circumstances related to safe visibility for motor vehicle operation.
3. Privacy fences over 6 feet in height are regulated as a structure and are subject to setback requirements, including side yards. Fences over 6 feet in height also require a building permit. If considering a fence over 6 feet tall, please call the Zoning Office, 645-8637.
4. The Zoning Code regulates the placement and opacity of fences in the front yard when a lot or any abutting lot has a driveway to the street. The purpose of this is to ensure the vehicle operator can see other vehicles and pedestrians. Call the Zoning Office, 645-8637, if considering any type of fence in the front yard.
5. The Zoning Code regulates the height, location, and opacity of fences on corner lots. Zoning staff encourages anyone considering a fence on a corner lot to come to the Department of Building & Zoning Services Customer Service Center with a site plan before the fence is erected so compliance with corner lot requirements can be verified.
6. The city does not regulate which sides of fences are oriented inward or outward.

Zoning encourages review of a proposed fence before the fence is erected. Fence review is done “over the counter”. No appointment is necessary. Please visit the Department of Building and Zoning Services Customer Service Center during the hours of 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Vision Clearance: Fences and Plantings



Vision Clearance Overview

An owner shall maintain vision clearance on each residential lot abutting a street and having access thereto or abutting such access.

- No portion of a fence or wall exceeding two and one-half feet in height above the finished lot grade shall exceed 25 percent opacity *when located in a required yard having vehicular access to a street or abutting such access.*
- Mature plantings with foliage between two and one-half and six feet above the finished lot grade shall extend no closer than 12 feet to the street right-of-way line.