



Village of Riverwoods 300 Portwine Road, Riverwoods, IL 60015 (847)945-3990

Fences

*Permitting, Codes and Project Information
(See Chapter 9 Title 9 of the Village Code)*

Permit Application Procedure

Applicants must submit a completed building permit application, 2 copies of an up to date plat of survey showing the proposed location of the fence, as well as a description of the fence materials, height and any special considerations. Contractors must provide a certificate of insurance naming the Village of Riverwoods as certificate holder per minimum statutory requirements.

Permit Exemptions

Basic repairs or maintenance such as replacing a section of damaged fence or painting do not require a permit. A permit is not required for cage style fencing used for encircling gardens and shrubs. A permit is not required for invisible electrified dog fences and temporary fences such as for construction, and snow and erosion control.

Private Restrictions

Residents of Country Club Estates Subdivision that abuts Deerfield Park District Golf Course or Ravinia Green Country Club cannot locate a fence in a golf course easement.

Residents of Meadowlake Subdivision cannot have front yard fences. The maximum height of side yard and rear yard fences is 5 feet. Fences must be at least 50 percent open. No fence can be closer to 50 feet from the shore line of a lake.

Residents of Thorngate Subdivision cannot have a fence unless it accompanies an in-ground swimming pool. The fence must meet Village standards.

Code Requirements

1. Fences cannot encroach over property lines.
2. Fences cannot be located within 2 feet of any public sidewalk or bicycle path.
3. Fences cannot impede the flow of surface drainage water.
4. Fences involving the removal of trees must be reviewed by the Village Forester.
5. Fences involving grade changes or the construction of berms must be reviewed by the Village Engineer and Village Forester.
6. The maximum height of fences is 6 feet measured from existing grade. Front yard fences can be no higher than four feet in height if they are not at least 70 percent open. Commercial fences can be 8 feet in height when abutting a residential zoning district. Screening of recreational vehicles, boats, campers and similar equipment can be 10 feet in height.
7. Front yard fences along the street must be setback at least 20 feet from the street pavement. Solid fences in front yards or along streets that are required to be no higher than 4 feet must be set back at least 15 feet from the street pavement. Solid fences in front yards along Deerfield, Riverwoods, and Saunders Roads are exempt from the 15 foot setback requirement, but no closer to 2 feet from a public sidewalk or bicycle path.
8. Chicken wire, plywood, scrap lumber and other non customary materials are not permitted.
9. The finished side of a fence must face outwards.
10. Fences must be stable and capable of withstanding 20 pounds per square foot of lateral pressure.
11. Posts must be buried at least 24 inches.
12. At least 36 inches of clearance must be provided around fire hydrants.

13. Electric driveway gates must be installed at least 20 feet from the edge of the road or behind the street easement.
14. Unsafe fences are not permitted such as spiked, barbed or razor wire.

Code Requirements Specific to **Deer Fences**

1. Must be from an approved deer fence manufacturer with materials designed for this type of installation. Materials include mesh made of polypropylene, polyethylene nylon, or metal coated polyethylene.
2. Cannot exceed 8 feet in height.
3. Cannot be attached to or wrapped around trees.
4. Must be black or a neutral earth tone color.

Code Requirements Specific to Fences Surrounding **Swimming Pools or Hot Tubs**

1. Swimming pools or hot tubs must be completely enclosed by a fence and gate that does not allow passage of a 4 inch or larger sphere.
2. The minimum fence or barrier height for an in-ground swimming pool is 4 foot 6 inches. For an above ground swimming pool, a minimum four foot tall fence or barrier is required. The walls of an above ground swimming pool may serve as the fence or barrier itself as long as the ladder retracts and locks in the up position.
3. No opening in the fence or gate can exceed ½ inch within 18 inches horizontally of the latch.
4. The fence or barrier cannot be a ladder type design
5. The gates must be self closing and self latching.
6. Latches must be located on the pool side of the fence at least 3 inches below the top of the gate.

Permit Fee and Bond

The permit fee is \$100.00 plus .10 cents per linear foot.

Inspection

A final inspection is required when the work is finished.

Office Hours

Office hours are from **8:30am to 1:30pm** Monday through Friday.

Buildings Department Staff

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