



DON FARMER  
MAYOR  
419-238-0308

## CITY of VAN WERT

515 EAST MAIN STREET • VAN WERT, OHIO 45891

"Vincit Amor Patriae"

The Love of Country Conquers

JAY C. FLEMING  
SAFETY-SERVICE DIRECTOR  
419-238-1237

### Fence Requirements:

For the purpose of the City of Van Wert Code Ordinance, a fence shall be defined as an accessory structure which is a barrier and is used as a boundary, screen, separation, means of privacy, protection, or confinement, and is constructed of wood, plastic (PVC), metal, masonry, or other similar material.

Fence permits are required for all new, enlarged, repaired, altered, and replaced fences.

### Height Limitations:

A. Residential: No fence or wall may be erected, placed, or maintained on any zoned residential lot to a height exceeding eight feet (8') above the ground level, except that no such fence or wall, which is located in a required front or corner side yard, shall exceed a height of three feet (3').

B. Non-residential: No fence or wall shall be erected, placed or maintained on any nonresidential-zoned property to a height exceeding eight feet (8').

C. Wire Fence: The minimum gauge of wire for a wire mesh fence shall be not less than eleven (11) gauge with a maximum of three (3) inch by (3) inch opening. No chicken wire, hog wire or barbwire fences shall be permitted on any residential lot.

Fence Location: No fence or other structure, nor any plant material, shall be so placed as to obstruct the clear visibility of any intersection.

Fences located in the interior side and rear yards shall have maximum height of eight feet (8'). Fences located in the front yard shall have a maximum height of three feet (3'). A side yard adjacent to the public right-of-way shall be considered a corner side yard and shall be regulated as a front yard with a maximum fence height of three feet (3').

It shall be the homeowner's responsibility to make sure that any fence installed on his or her property is within his or her property line. A fence can be installed directly on the property line; ensure that fence posts do not encroach on adjacent properties.

A. The depth of the fence posts should be one-third (1/3) of the height of the fence.

Exception: In corners or supporting gates, the depth in this case shall be to frost. Fill should be base gravel with concrete fill six inches (6") below grade.

B. Fences shall not be placed closer than eighteen inches (18") from telephone, cable, gas, pedestals that would interfere with the maintenance for these utilities, if necessary. Fences shall not be placed on storm manholes, catch basins, or pipes. Exception: When an easily removable panel(s) is/are installed above catch basin or manhole.



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C. Homeowners are responsible for locating their sump pump line if buried in the backyard to avoid damaging it during construction.

D. Swimming pool fences shall be regulated by the City of Van Wert Building Code.

### **BUILDING PERMIT REQUIRED \$20.00**

To apply for the building permit, the following items shall be submitted to the Building Department:

1. A completed permit application.
2. Plat of survey showing the proposed location, type and height of the fence.
3. Survey property pins are required for inspection.

### **INSPECTIONS REQUIRED**

The Building Inspector shall inspect all fences prior to installation to verify location and compliance with the City of Van Wert fencing code.

Inspections shall be requested in writing or by telephone to the Building Department at least twenty-four (24) hours in advance. (419)238-5775

### **CONTRACTORS REGISTRATION REQUIRED**

It shall be unlawful to engage in business in the City of Van Wert as a building contractor without first having obtained a building contractor's registration.

A homeowner is not required to be licensed as a subcontractor or general contractor to construct, demolish, rehabilitate, alter, or repair his or her own fence.

Prior to digging, contact the underground utility locating service at

**Call 8-1-1 or 1-800-362-2764**