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## FENCES, RETAINING WALLS & SCREENING WALLS

This handout is for informational use ONLY. Fences, screening walls, and retaining walls constructed must adhere to the City of Frisco's codes and ordinances, which includes building, zoning, and subdivision ordinances and codes.

### 1. DO I NEED A PERMIT TO BUILD A FENCE?

- Yes, a Fence Permit is required to build a fence or when replacing an existing fence. This does not include minor repairs or when fifty (50%) or less of the total fence length is being replaced. Any portion of the fence and/or its gate(s) must not interfere with or alter any drainage swale between lots.

### 2. DO I NEED A PERMIT TO BUILD A RETAINING WALL OR SCREENING WALL?

- Yes, a Fence Permit is required to build a retaining wall or screening wall. Retaining walls and screening walls over thirty six inches (36") require an Engineer's design. Any portion of a retaining wall and/or its gate(s) must not interfere or alter any drainage swale between lots.

### 3. WHERE DO I OBTAIN A FENCE / RETAINING WALL / SCREENING WALL PERMIT?

- A Fence / Retaining Wall / Screening Wall Permit is submitted to Building Inspections for review then paid and picked up from Building Inspections' guest lobby in City Hall at 6101 Frisco Square Blvd, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor.

### 4. WHAT IS REQUIRED FOR A FENCE / RETAINING WALL / SCREENING WALL PERMIT?

- A completed Fence Permit application, which needs to include the location, lot, block, subdivision, owner's name, registered contractor name (if different than owner), length and height of fence/wall, estimated value of the fence, and type of materials to be used for fence/screening wall construction.
- Two (2) copies of the property plot plan are required, along with the location of the fence clearly marked or 'highlighted'.

### 5. HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE TO OBTAIN A FENCE PERMIT?

- A Fence Permit submittal is usually completed at the time of application. Retaining walls and Screening Walls are reviewed by a Plan Reviewer and may take 3-5 business days to review.

### 6. HOW MUCH DOES A FENCE PERMIT COST?

- Residential and commercial Fence permits are twenty (\$20.00) dollars.
- Residential and commercial Retaining Walls or Screening Walls are twenty (\$20.00) dollars.

### 7. WHERE CAN I BUILD MY FENCE?

- All fences, screening wall and retaining walls must be on the property line or inside the property line. The maximum height of fence behind the front building line is a maximum of eight feet (8') from inside grade. A maximum height of four feet (4') when the fence is located in front of the front building line.

### 8. DO I NEED A FENCE AROUND A POOL OR SPA?

- Yes, fences that enclose pools and/or spas must meet specific design requirements, including gates as outlined in Residential Pool & Spa Guideline available under separate cover in the guest lobby at Development Services.

**9. CAN I BUILD MY FENCE IN A UTILITY EASEMENT?**

- Caution! The City of Frisco will not be held liable for any damages to a fence built within any utility easement during repairs or general maintenance to utilities also located within the easement.

**10. WHAT MATERIALS MAY I USE TO BUILD MY FENCE?**

- The Chief Building Official, or his/her designee shall render interpretations of the current building codes and ordinances as what materials may be deemed for use as fence materials for the construction of any fences.
- Masonry fences require an Engineer's design approved by the City of Frisco Building Inspections before construction can begin.
- Fence vertical posts must be galvanized steel (min. 2 and 3/8ths" diameter; 15 gauge thickness and have required concrete footing).
- Fences within Residential zoning districts may not contain any:
  - A. Continuous electrical current
  - B. Barbed wire in or on it
  - C. Fiberglass or fiberglass panels
  - D. Corrugated steel or sheet iron
  - E. Razor Wire
  - F. Concertina wire in or on it

Please reference the most current Fence Ordinance available online for specifications.

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