



FENCE BULLETIN

City of Frankenmuth

240 W. Genesee Street

Frankenmuth, MI 48734-1398

Phone: (989) 652-9901 • Facsimile: (989) 652-3451

General Notes - Prior to installing a fence:

Determine the exact location of your property lines.

Check subdivision [deed] restrictions.

Check for underground utilities by contacting MISS DIG (800-482-7171) at least 72 hours prior to excavating.

Zoning District: Residential. Contact the Zoning Administrator for questions or information on other use districts at (989) 652-3430, x111.

Setbacks (Minimums):

Front. Not Applicable. Fences shall not project into the front yard.

Side. Interior Lots. Inside property line (check subdivision deed restrictions).

Corner Lots. 25 ft.

Rear. Inside property line (check subdivision deed restrictions).

Height (Maximum): 5 ft. The fence height is measured from the average grade to the top of the fence.

Miscellaneous. The decorative side of the fence, obscuring fence, wall, or screen shall be located so that it is facing toward the adjacent properties.

Zoning Permit/Inspections: \$35 Fee. A final inspection is required upon completion of the work. For an inspection, call (989) 652-3430, x111.

Property Assessment Value: No real estate value is placed on fences for tax purposes.

Applicable Zoning Code Sections for Fences and Other Screening Structures:

5.191(10)(a). Fences/Obscuring Fences/Walls/Screens. Fences, obscuring fences, walls and/or screens, not exceeding five (5) feet in height may occupy a required side or rear yard, unless otherwise specified herein. The decorative side of the fence, obscuring fence, wall, or screen shall be located so that it is facing toward the adjacent properties. All other fences, obscuring fences, walls or screens not complying with these regulations must be approved by the Zoning Board of Appeals with the exception that obscuring fences, walls or screens are permitted to exceed fence height limitations in Office, Business and Industrial Zoning Districts if they are being used to screen mechanical, electrical and/or plumbing equipment that provide essential utility services to the building and have been reviewed and approved by the Zoning Administrator. A building permit is required for the installation of all fences, obscuring fences, walls and screens.

5.191(10)(b). Hedges. Hedges and planting(s) may occupy any required yard provided no hedge in excess of two (2) feet in height shall be maintained on the front, side or rear of any lot within thirty (30) feet of any two (2) intersecting lot lines at the intersection of two (2) streets.

5.191(10)(c). Required Maintenance. Any fence, obscuring fence, wall, screen, hedge or other dividing barrier required or installed in accordance with the provisions of this Chapter shall be maintained in a safe and attractive fashion at all times.

5.191(11). Temporary Fences. Temporary fences are prohibited in all zoning districts; however, the following exceptions are permitted provided the height of the temporary fence does not exceed the maximum fence height specified for the respective zoning district:

(a) Temporary fences at permitted construction sites, as authorized by the Building Inspector.

(b) Snow fences and other temporary fences authorized by the City Manager to protect the public health, safety and general welfare.

(c) Other temporary fences located in the Historic Preservation District if approved by the Historic Preservation District Commission following a public hearing. An application fee shall be required. The amount of the fee shall be determined by City Council resolution.

(d) Other temporary fences located outside the Historic Preservation District if approved by the Zoning Board of Appeals following a public hearing. An application fee shall be required. The amount of the fee shall be determined by City Council resolution.

5.191(12). Garden Structures/Maintenance. Garden structures (i.e. trellises) specifically designed for the purpose of supporting the growth of flowers or plants, and not intended to be used for fences, obscuring fences, walls or screens, are limited to no greater than eight (8) feet in width and eight (8) feet in height. Such garden structures are permitted only in side and rear yards. No more than three garden structures, separated by a minimum of ten (10) feet, are allowed per premises. Garden structures shall be maintained in a safe and attractive fashion at all times and are not subject to permit regulations located in this Chapter.