



FENCES AND RETAINING WALLS

What Is a Fence?

A fence is a structure that encloses an outdoor area and is usually constructed from posts that are connected by boards, wire or rails.



Fence Requirements

Where Can a Fence Be Built?

Fences can be built on or close to a property line. However, a fence located on a corner site may not be erected within a 6m (20 ft.) distance from the corner closest to the street intersection.

How Tall Can a Fence Be?

Within residential districts, a fence can be no more than 1m (3.3 ft.) in height along the front yard. Along the side and rear yard a fence can be no more than 2m (6.5 ft.) in height. Within all other districts there are no height restrictions for a fence.

Can a Fence Use Barbed Wire?

Barbed wire may be used for fences surrounding land on which grazing of livestock is allowed. Barbed wire may also be used as the top strand of a fence for

commercial or industrial districts provided the top strand is at least 2m (6.5 ft.) above ground level.

Can an Electric Fence Be Constructed?

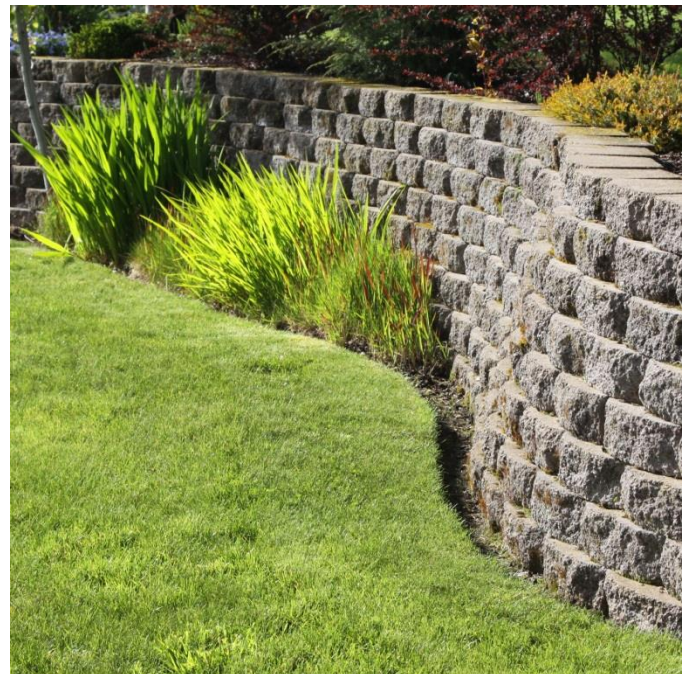
An electric fence is only allowed as an internal cross-fence on land which grazing of livestock is allowed.

When Is a Fence Required?

A temporary fence maybe required to enclose excavation sites which are considered dangerous.

What Is a Retaining Wall?

A retaining wall is a wall or structure used to support soil so that it can be maintained at different levels on either side of the wall. In some cases the retaining wall may provide structural support, in others it may be for aesthetic or landscaping purposes.



Retaining Wall Requirements

When Is a Retaining Wall Required?

A retaining wall may be required when the elevation difference between properties is more than 0.3m (1 ft.)

An engineered retaining wall may be required where the change in elevation between two sites or around a building exceeds a slope of 1:3 and a height of 1m (3 ft.) Where a retaining wall is required or proposed the applicant may be required to demonstrate, by means of an engineering report signed by a professional engineer, that the retaining wall is designed to be sufficiently stable to meet its intended purpose.

Where Can a Retaining Wall Be Built?

Retaining walls are exempt from setback requirements and may be built on or close to a property line.

Do I Require a Development Permit?

The construction, maintenance or alteration of a fence that is consistent with the Land Use Bylaw does not require a development permit. Any fence that exceeds the requirements of the Land Use Bylaw requires a development permit.

Retaining walls for the purpose of aesthetics that have no structural or other negative impacts do not require a development permit. However, retaining walls required for engineering purposes, structural purposes or as required by the Land Use Bylaw shall require a development permit.

Do I Need Any Other Permits?

Additional permits are not required for a fence. However, a fence that encloses a swimming pool shall require additional permits.

If a retaining wall is used for structural or engineering purposes additional permits shall be required.

More Questions?

Further information may be obtained by contacting the Development Services Department through the contact information below. For all requirements, restrictions and exemptions, please consult the Land Use Bylaw which may be downloaded from the Town of Ponoka website: <https://www.ponoka.ca>



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