



INFORMATION ON FENCES

A fence is defined as an artificially constructed barrier of any material or combination of materials (but does not include hedges, shrubs, trees, or other natural growth), erected to enclose, screen or separate areas of land. The following Q&A has key facts you need to be aware of when thinking about constructing a fence in Oshtemo Charter Township.

Do I need a building permit to put up a fence?

Fences with a height less than 7' do not require a building permit, unless it is a part of a required pool barrier. Contact the Building Department at 269-585-4150 or building@oshtemo.org for more information.

Who is responsible for locating my property lines? How can I find them?

Homeowners are responsible for verifying the location of their property lines. They can be found on your property deed, on the survey you received when you bought your home, by using the mapping tools at the County Assessor's office to help locate your property pins, or by hiring a professional surveyor.

Where on my property can I place my fence?

Fences may be placed up to the property line. Fences cannot be placed within any public right-of-way or within the easement for private roads.

What materials can my fence be made of?

Essentially anything. However, unless the property is a bonafide agricultural use, no barbed wire, spire tips, sharp objects, or electrically charged fences are allowed.

Does it matter which side of the fence is facing in or out?

Fences must have the finished side facing out, away from property where the fence will be located.

How tall can I build a fence in my side and rear yards?

The maximum fence height for all side and rear yards is 6' tall.

Am I allowed to have a fence in the front yard as well? If so, are there any height restrictions?

Fences in the front yard are allowed. The maximum height for fences placed in a front yard is 4' tall. In the case of corner properties, no fence greater than 30" in height can be located within 20' of the intersection of the nearest street right-of-way or easements which interferes with traffic visibility across the corner. See the fencing illustration on the back of this page for more information.

Notes:

- This is not an exhaustive outline of all requirements for fences. To find a complete copy of Ordinance Sec. 57.60 – Fences, please visit <https://online.encodeplus.com/regs/oshtemo-mi/doc-viewer.aspx#secid-2358>.
- If you reside in a condominium, please review the HOA/Deed Restrictions to see if additional requirements apply beyond the Township's requirements.

DIAGRAM FOR FENCES

