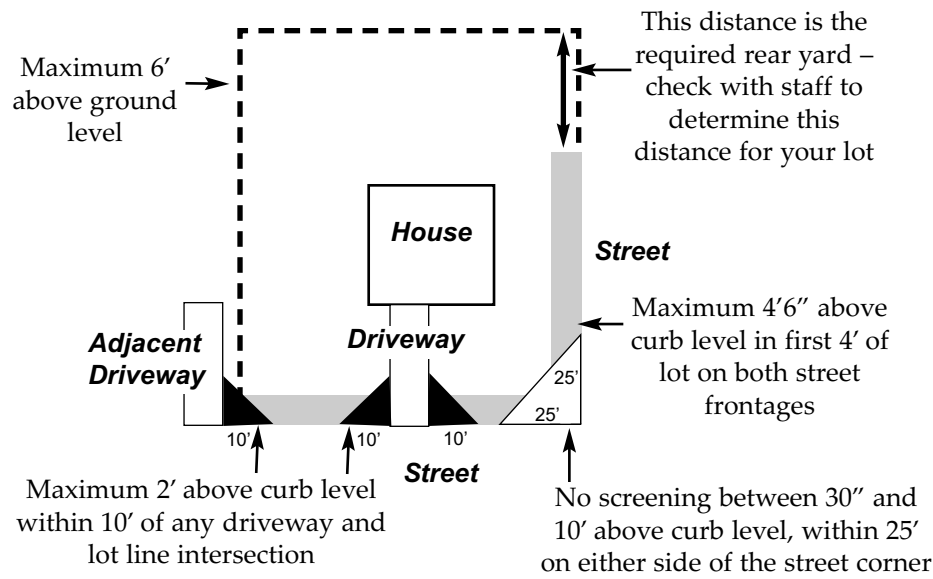


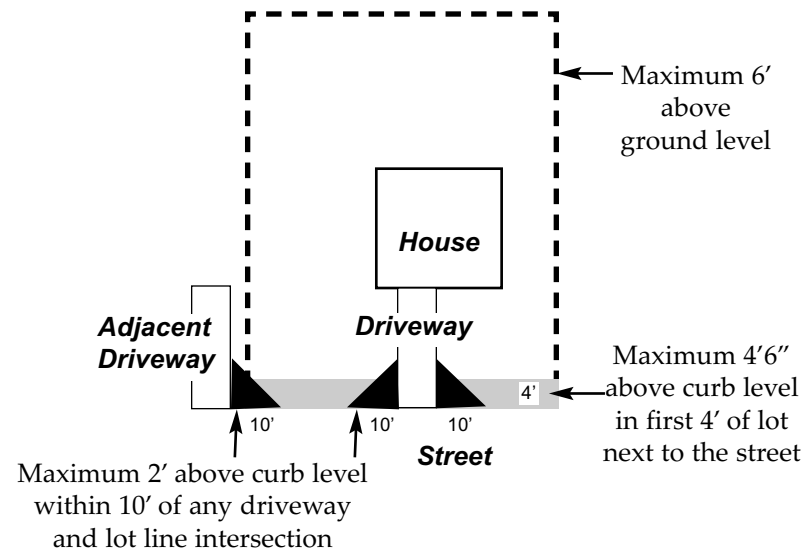
# Putting Up a Fence or Hedge

## Corner Lot General Screening Heights for Plants and Fences\*



\* Corner lots are unique depending on your house and driveway location on the lot. This diagram does not show every possible variation. Check with Zoning Staff about your particular lot.

## General Screening Heights for Plants and Fences\*



\* This diagram does not show every possible fence or planting height variation. Show Zoning Staff a sketch of your property, including house and driveway dimensions and location, to confirm location and height of proposed fence.

Department of Planning & Community & Economic Development

Main Number .....	266-4635
TTY/TEXTNET .....	866-704-2318
Building Inspection Division .....	266-4551
FAX .....	266-6377
Building permits .....	266-4558/267-8688
Economic Development Division .....	266-4222
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**Location:**

City of Madison  
 Building Inspection Division  
 Madison Municipal Building, Ste. LL100  
 215 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.

**Mailing Address:**

City of Madison  
 Building Inspection Division  
 P.O. Box 2984  
 Madison, WI 53701-2984

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You don't need a building permit to put up a fence. But you do need to know Madison's laws governing the height and placement of fences and screening.

You also need to check for any deed restrictions or covenants on your property that might regulate improvements in your yard. Refer to the documents you signed and received when you purchased your house.

**1 Find out if your proposed fence or planting project will meet the placement and height requirements.**

### Placement

A fence may be erected up to the lot line, but no part of the fence or post may encroach over the lot line. Keep a fence or plantings back from the property line to allow easy maintenance. It is your choice whether to fence in the entire yard or only part of it.

There is no legal requirement that the "good side" of the fence face your neighbor. But it's a good idea to talk over your fence project with your neighbors and find out their concerns.

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### Height

- **Front or side yard** fences or hedges, within 4 feet of any street-side lot line, may be no higher than 4½ feet above curb level.
- **Rear or side yards** may have fences or hedges that are no more than 6 feet above ground level. If your yard adjoins a manufacturing or commercial district, the fence or hedge may be 8 feet high along the common property line.
- **Street intersection corners** may have fences or hedges that are 2½ feet or less above curb level. Trees cannot have branches lower than 10 feet above curb level. These requirements are for fences, hedges, or trees within 25 feet, on either side, from the corner of the lot. This lets pedestrians and autos have a clear view of traffic. Call Traffic Engineering at 266-4761, if you wish to request an exemption from this law.
- **All in-ground pools** *must* be enclosed by a fence that is at least 4 feet high. A pool fence must also have a gate with a lock.
- **Above-ground pools** with sides that are more than 4 feet high do not need to be enclosed by a fence. However, access to an above-ground

pool must be controlled. A removable ladder is an easy way to meet this requirement.

- **Driveways** may be lined by fences or plantings that you cannot see through. Within 10 feet of the intersection of any driveway with any street-side lot line, fences or plantings cannot be more than 2 feet above curb level.
- **Retaining walls** are subject to the same height considerations as other types of fences. Retaining wall height is measured from the natural grade of the land to the top of the wall or to the top of a wall/screen combination at the lot line.

(See the back of this brochure for a diagram of these height and placement requirements.)

**2 Locate your lot lines.** There should be metal stakes at each corner of your lot. It is important that you find them. Talk with your neighbors or use a metal detector. If you can't locate your lot lines yourself, you may need to hire a surveyor. *The City cannot help you with this.*

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**3 Call the Diggers Hotline,** 1-800-242-8511, to avoid rupturing underground utilities that you may not know are there. A utility company employee will come out and mark the location of underground electric, sewer, telephone, and cable lines in your yard. You may need to change the placement of your fence or plantings if it is over one of these lines.

**4 Install fencing** according to manufacturer's instructions. The company you purchased your fence from can supply you with instructions on how best to put up your particular fence. Plant your trees and shrubs as directed by the nursery.

**5 Keep your fence and plantings in good condition.** Paint and repair fences on a regular basis. Trim shrubbery to maintain height requirements and keep it off of sidewalks, streets, and neighbor's property.

If you're not sure that your proposed fence will meet the requirements, call 266-4551 and ask for Zoning assistance. Zoning staff will be happy to advise you so that your fence is both safe and attractive.

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