



Permit Requirements for Fences

When is a permit required?

Permits are required for fences that are over six (6) feet in height; if your fence is six (6) feet in height or under, a building permit is not required.

Are there setback requirements for a fence?

No-fences do not have a setback requirement. You can place a fence anywhere on your property, with the exception of any easements and/or rights of way. You are advised to stay at least six (6) inches off of your property line to avoid any civil disputes with your neighbor(s).

If there is a Homeowner's Association that regulates your property, those regulations should be observed as well. The Inspections Division does NOT enforce such regulations but you are advised to adhere to the regulations, if they exist.

What paperwork do I need to get a permit?

If your fence is over six (6) feet in height, you will need scaled building plans, showing an elevation of the fence and the footing design. The plans will need to be designed by and stamped/sealed by an engineer. You will need to fill out a "Residential/Zoning Application", which is available online at: <http://www.cityofws.org/Home/Departments/Inspections/Articles/FormsAndFees>, or in the Inspections Office.

If your fence is six (6) feet or under in height, and you wish to purchase a building permit, you will need a "Residential/Zoning Application", which is available online at: <http://www.cityofws.org/Home/Departments/Inspections/Articles/FormsAndFees>, or in the Inspections Office.

What is my permit cost?

The permit cost is based on the cost of the project. For example, if your project will cost \$5,000 or less and you are a homeowner or non-licensed contractor purchasing the permit, your permit cost will be \$70.00. If you are a state licensed contractor the fee will be \$80.00 because of the Homeowner's Recovery Fee. A Fee Schedule is available online for viewing under the "Forms and Fees" link at: <http://www.cityofws.org/Home/Departments/Inspections/Articles/FormsAndFees>.

For additional information, please contact the
Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Inspections Department at: 336-747-7422