

225-8 Fences & Retaining Walls.

A. Definitions: As used in this section, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:

RETAINING WALL

A wall of any material to resist the lateral displacement of soil, the slope of which is greater than 1.5 horizontal to 1 vertical.

B. Fences

- (1) All fences which extend 16 linear feet or more, or which are erected or constructed to a height of more than four feet, shall require a building permit and a fee as provided by the Village Fee Schedule.
- (2) All fences erected or constructed in the front setback area as established under the provisions of § 535-19E(5) of the Village Code shall be limited to a height of no more than four feet; provided, however, that on corner lots, where adjacent to a public walk or street, all fences erected or constructed to a height of more than four feet shall conform to the building setback provisions of § 535-19E(5) of the Village Code.
- (3) All fences erected directly across from any garage in an alley, the width of which is 15 feet or less, shall be set back a minimum of three feet from the alley line.

[Amended 9-4-1990 by Ord. No. 1582]

- (4) No fence shall be erected or constructed which exceeds a height of six feet.
- (5) No fence more than four feet in height may be erected between adjoining properties when the fence parallels an existing residence and the distance between the fence and the residence on either property is less than six feet.

[Amended 2-6-2004 by Ord. No. 1862]

- (6) All fences erected shall have the structural components thereof facing the side of the property for and on which the same are erected. Barbed wire shall not be used for fence purposes, and all fences shall be so constructed as to withstand a wind pressure of at least 30 pounds per square foot
- (7) Chain link and barbed style fences are prohibited in the Village of Shorewood, except, chain link fences with top barb ends knuckled are allowed in residential districts side yard or rear yard.
- (8) The height of any fence erected under this section shall be determined by the measurements from the uppermost point of the fence relative to the immediate existing adjacent ground level of the adjoining property.
- (9) All fences shall be erected within the dimensions of the lot according to survey. *Editor's Note: Added at time of adoption of Code (see Ch. 1, General Provisions, Art. I)*

C. Retaining walls

- (1) No person or firm shall construct, install, enlarge, alter, repair or replace any retaining wall until a building permit has first been obtained, and other provisions of this section have been complied with. Construction site plans accompanied with current property survey are required to be submitted for review by the building inspector prior to the issuance of a building permit and commencing of wall construction. These plans are to include: wall placement location(s), details of installation with regard to height, depth, length of wall and type of reinforcement and or pinning to be used.

Exceptions under this provision includes:

- (a) Edgings. Edgings less than six inches in height of metal, stone, brick, concrete, timber or other materials around driveways, patios, gardens, flower beds, plantings, or trees.
 - (b) Decorative walls. Decorative walls not in excess of two feet in height used around gardens, plantings, trees, patios, or driveways and constructed of natural stone, brick or timbers.
- (2) Retaining walls shall be constructed of textured concrete block, natural stone, manufactured stone block specifically designed for retaining walls and shall be installed as per manufacture's specifications.

Retaining walls may be constructed with treated landscape timbers, having a minimum preservation retention level (PRL) of 0.40, and shall be limited in height to two feet relative to adjacent grade.

All retaining walls exceeding two feet in height relative to adjacent grade require a construction review by the Building Inspector prior to construction, and upon recommendation by the building inspector, may require a detailed design submittal generated by a licensed civil or structural engineer.

- (3) Retaining walls are not to be constructed in a manner which would adversely affect current stormwater management of property or any adjoining properties.
- (4) Retaining walls shall not be constructed or supported in any manner with railroad ties, plywood, logs, pipes, metal, fiberglass, or any other material not specifically manufactured for use as a retaining wall.
- (5) Retaining walls shall be constructed using appropriate engineering standards or per manufacture's specifications.
- (6) Retaining walls shall be kept and maintained in good sound and presentable condition at all times.
- (7) The appearance, materials, design, location and height are to be harmonious with the principal structure.