

This bulletin is for information only and can change at any time.

Purpose

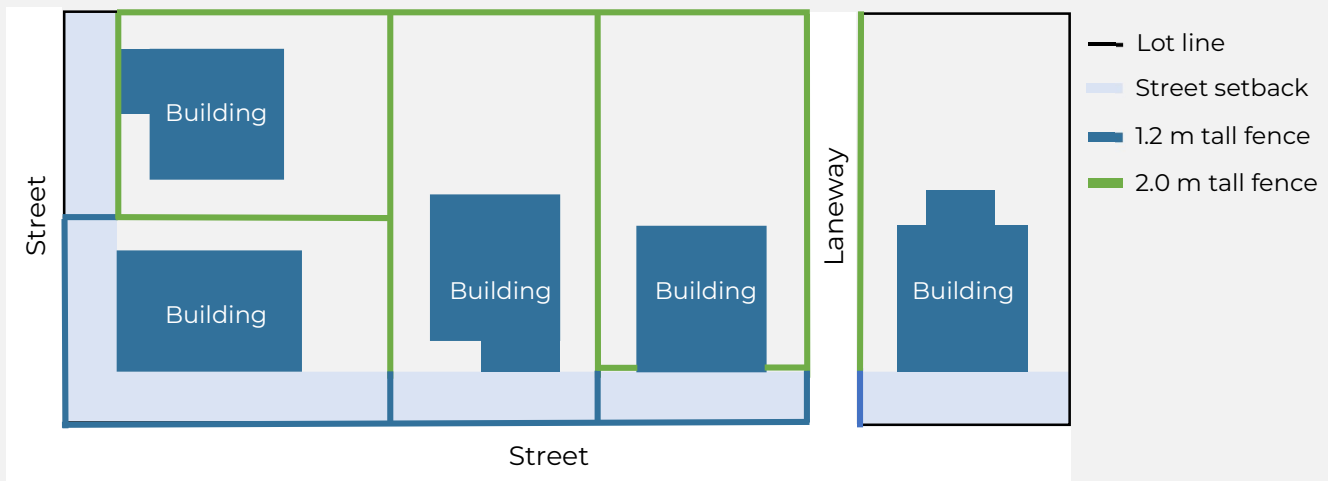
To clarify the City of Vernon's bylaws and regulations as they pertain to fencing. Please refer to the [Zoning Bylaw](#) for complete regulatory information.

Fence Height

Subject to traffic sightlines, **Fence** height measured from **Natural Grade** in housing and commercial mixed-use zones shall not exceed 1.2 m, except:

- It may increase to 2.0 m if situated behind the **Setback** abutting a street or along a **Lot Line** not abutting a street.
- It may increase to 2.4 m where abutting an agricultural or industrial zone.
- One gate for pedestrian access may be 2.0 m in height with a maximum width of 1.0 m.

Refer to the [Zoning Bylaw](#) for fence height requirements in industrial, servicing, and community zones.



Key Terms

- **Fence** means a structure made of wood, metal, masonry or other material that is used as an enclosure or for screening purposes around all or part of a Lot.
- **Lot Line** means the legally defined boundary of any Lot.
- **Natural Grade** means the elevation of the ground in its natural state before human alteration.
- **Setback** means the minimum distance specified in the [Zoning Bylaw](#) between a Building or Structure and a Lot Line.

Fence Placement

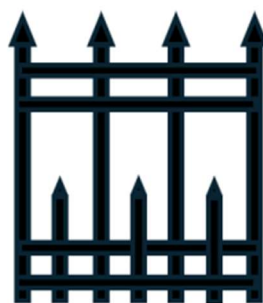
It is the property owner's responsibility to ensure their fence is constructed within their property. If you are unsure of your property boundaries, check if the [BC Land Title and Survey Authority](#) has a property survey on file or consider engaging the services of a Land Surveyor. It's also a good idea to speak with your neighbor before installing a fence along shared lot lines.

Fence Materials

Consider the following before selecting a fence:

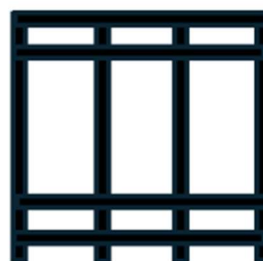
- Prioritizing permeable materials (i.e. trellises, spaced wood or metal, chain link) in front yards balances privacy and security while maintaining openness and visual connection to the street.
- Using treated materials (i.e. lumber grade wood) can prevent sagging and promote fence longevity.
- Installing a 1.5 m non-combustible break, such as a metal gate, between wood fencing and your home can improve fire resistance. See FireSmart Canada's [Fencing Fact Sheet](#) for more information.
- Pickets or finials which extend above a horizontal rail and may pose a danger to wildlife are prohibited.
- Razor wire is prohibited in all zones. Barbed wire or electrified fencing is only permitted in agricultural zones where used for livestock enclosures.

Wildlife-Considerate Fencing



Not Allowed

Pickets and finials shall not exceed a horizontal rail



Allowed

Smooth top rail

Note that some areas may have established neighbourhood plans (i.e. building schemes) that further specify allowable fencing materials. Please reach out to your local strata or neighbourhood association for more details.

Swimming Pool Fencing

The [Building Bylaw](#) requires that swimming pools, including a spa or hot tub, be enclosed within a fence meeting the following criteria:

- Minimum height of 1.22 m with no openings greater than 100 mm.
- Construction without footholds or grips that children could use to climb into pool area.
- Inclusion of a gate with a self-closing and self-latching design with the latch on the pool side.

A locking cover preventing unauthorized access may be provided in lieu of a fence for spa or hot tubs. Contact the Building Department at 250-550-3592 or buildingcounter@vernon.ca for more details.

Permit Requirements

A permit is not required to construct a fence provided it complies with [Zoning Bylaw](#) requirements and is located outside the environmentally sensitive areas identified in DPA 1 – Terrestrial Ecosystem and DPA 2 – Aquatic Ecosystem of the [Official Community Plan](#).

If a proposed fence does not comply, such as exceeding the maximum height requirements or being in an environmentally sensitive area, a Development Variance Permit and/or Development Permit is required. These permits must be applied for and issued prior to construction taking place.

Where can I learn more?

For more information, please contact the Planning Department at 250-550-3634 or planning@vernon.ca. Staff are also available at the Community Services Building (3001 32nd Ave) during business hours.

