



**Boulder County
Land Use Department
Publications**

Fence Requirements

Land Use Department
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Office Hours:
 Monday — Friday 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM

Fence Requirements

General Permit Requirements

Building Permits are not required for fences 6 feet in height and under. However, fences of any height in the floodplain, require a permit. See **Standards for Fencing in a Floodplain** below. Fences over 6 feet need a building permit and must meet setback requirements for the zoning district in which they are located. Fences over 6 feet may require plans for the footings and foundation that are prepared and stamped by a professional engineer.

Wildlife Safe Fencing

Specific requirements for wildlife safe fencing might have been required through a County review process (Site Plan Review, etc.). If your parcel has been through a county review process, check the conditions of approval to see if there is a requirement for Wildlife Safe Fencing.

Fences and Easements

The County does not prohibit construction of fences in utility easements, but the fence installer and/or property owner assumes risk by doing so. Call the local utility companies for information on utility line locations. In addition, make sure that any fence in or adjacent to a storm drainage easement or swale does not impede the normal flow of stormwater.

Standards for Fencing in a Floodplain

Fences may be permitted in the floodplain depending on the type of fence and its use. In some cases, fencing is not permitted in the floodplain. Regardless of whether a building permit is necessary, any proposed fence in a 100-year floodplain requires issuance of a floodplain development permit from the Boulder County Transportation Department. The following table is provided for assistance with understanding and selecting appropriate fencing in the floodplain.

Notes:

1. Open barbed or barbless wire fencing shall have no more than one horizontal strand per foot of height and no more than one vertical wire or post every six feet. Horizontal wire strands may be placed below the flood height provided spacing is not closer than 6-inches apart. Vertical wire strands may be placed below the flood height provided spacing is not closer than 6-feet apart.
2. Open pipe or rail fencing shall be 90% "open" and have posts placed no closer than 8-feet apart.
3. Other wire, pipe, or rail fencing that is not considered "open" shall include minimum spacing not less than 6" x 6" square openings.
4. For more information or to inquire about a floodplain development permit, please contact the Boulder County Transportation Department at 303-441-3900.

Fence Type	Uses of Fencing Allowed		
	Flood Fringe	Floodway	Shallow Flooding Zone
Open barbed or barbless wire	Yes	Yes	Yes
Open pipe or rail fencing (i.e. corrals)	Yes	Yes, with limited cross fencing	Yes
Other wire, pipe, or rail fencing (i.e. field fence, welded wire)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Chain Link	Case by case review	No	Yes
Solid Wood Fence	Case by case review	No	Yes, if elevate to or above the flood height, or adequate openings provided
Collapsible or Breakaway Fencing	Case by case review of design is required		

Covenants and Fencing

Each subdivision may have provisions more restrictive than those above. Please check with you homeowners association and/or your subdivision's covenants prior to commencing construction. The County does not enforce subdivision covenants.

Other Important Information

The term fence does not include retaining walls. Also, fences built around a developed use, such as a tennis court or outdoor eating area, must meet other zoning, land use, and Building Code standards. Retaining walls and masonry fences must meet the structural design standards of the International Building Code.

Fences at Intersections

Fences of any height can not interfere with the site triangle at intersections and that triangle varies based on the posted speed of the road. Please contact the Boulder County Transportation Department at 303-441-3900 for more information. See diagram below.

Sight Distance at Intersections

Sight distance requirement for intersection involving a stopped condition.

Design of Speed on Thru Roadway/Major Road (MPH)	Minimum Sight Distance for Stopped Vehicle in Feet
15 MPH	100 Feet
20 MPH	150 Feet
25 MPH	175 Feet
30 MPH	200 Feet
35 MPH	250 Feet
40 MPH	300 Feet
50 MPH	450 Feet
60 MPH	650 Feet

Applicable only to low volume, low speed intersections.

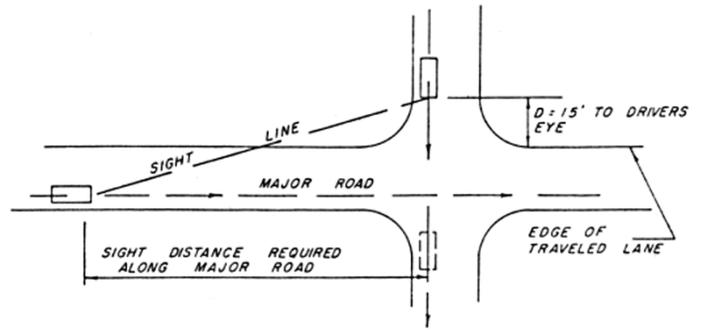


Figure 1: Diagram Depicting Visibility Triangle.

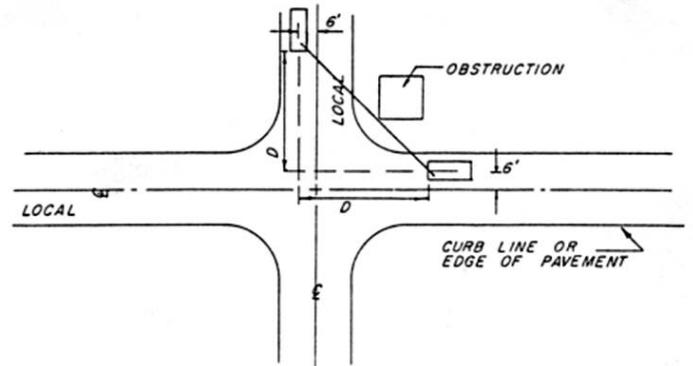


Figure 2: Diagram Depicting Visibility Triangle.

Posted Speed	Distance (D) Feet
20 MPH	90 Feet
30 MPH	130 Feet

For More Information

Setback requirements vary by zoning district and road. To determine specific setback requirements for your parcel, please check with a planner at the Land Use Department planner@bouldercounty.org or 303-441-3930.

