



# TOWN OF CARVER

## Permitting Department

108 Main Street, Carver, MA 02330

508-866-3450

## FENCE INFO

Avoid fence disputes by practicing fence etiquette--a good neighbor policy.

If you follow zoning regulations and share basics with neighbors before construction, you can install a new fence AND stay on good terms with the folks next door.

### Must-Dos

**Observe boundaries:** Don't risk having to tear down that fence by going even one inch over your property line. Study your **house line drawing or plot plan** or order a new survey from a land surveyor to be sure of boundaries. Fence companies usually install a foot inside the line, to be on the safe side.

**Respect limits:** Fencing companies obtain permits and must know local zoning regulations for height, setbacks, and other restrictions. Height limits typically are 7 feet for side and back yards; 4 feet for front yards. More restrictive rules often apply to corner lots, where blind curves can limit driving visibility. To avoid disputes, review restrictions with your fence company before choosing a fence.

**Common Practice/Courtesy** is to put the "GOOD" side to your neighbor but not mandatory.

### Seven Foot Rule

While height restrictions are different in some districts, Massachusetts state regulation mandates that residential fences can be no higher than seven feet in back yards and four feet in front yards. Without a permit.

A permit and engineering is required for a fence over seven feet showing footings and wind loads.

#### **R105.2 Work exempt from permit.**

Fences not over 7 feet (2134 mm) high.

Retaining walls that are not over 4 feet (1219 mm) in height measured from the bottom of the footing to the top of the wall, unless supporting a surcharge

### No Barbed Wire

One important restriction concerning fences in Massachusetts is the restriction on potentially dangerous material in the construction of the fence. This is designed to protect the residential public and includes restrictions on electric fences, chicken wire fencing (which is laced with small sharp points) and barbed wire coils around the top of the fence. Unlike the six foot rule, there are no exceptions to this rule.