



FENCE PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

The department of Building and Zoning now requires digital submissions for all applications and supporting documents. Applicants that have digital files 25MB or less are encouraged to email their submittals to: Intake.bnz@cookcountyil.gov or use our [E-Permit Portal](#) on the Cook County Building and Zoning Website.

Prior to submission, you must confirm that the project is **unincorporated** Cook County's jurisdiction. Please use the [Cook Viewer](#) tool online, enter the address select "Layers" button at the top, and check "Unincorporated Area" to highlight unincorporated areas in an orange hatch. Applications submitted in error are not eligible for refunds

Applications will be entered in the order they are received. When your application is entered, we will assign a permit review number for you to track status online. A deposit invoice for either \$100 residential or \$500 non-residential will be posted in the status and must be paid to initiate technical reviews.

When the application has satisfied all department reviews and comments, payment details will display on your permit status page. After payment has been received, your permit will be issued and mailed to you.

A permit is required for all unincorporated properties for fences constructed of any material at any height.

1. Complete the application in its entirety where applicable. Be sure to print your name, address, email, phone number and include the property index number (PIN). Be certain to indicate on the application if your property is served by well and septic or water and sewer and the estimated cost of work.
2. Submit a Plat of Survey signed and sealed by an Illinois registered surveyor that is not more than five (5) years old. Indicate on the Survey the exact location of the fence and also indicate on the survey the following:
 - The height from grade to top of the fence.
 - The length of the fence.
 - The description of the fence (cedar, chain-link, vinyl, etc.).
 - Location and size of any gates. Please show which direction the gate will swing.
 - State that the finished side of the fence will face out from the subject property. The poles, supports and braces must be on the owner's side of the property so that the finished side faces the neighbors and public streets.
 - State whether this fence will be used to enclose a swimming pool or any body of water deeper than 24-inches. If so, gates must be self-latching and swing out from the property.
 - Post holes must be dug to a depth of 42-inches

In residential districts, the maximum allowable height of a fence along a common lot line is 6-feet. Fences in front yards and corner side yard setback zones cannot be taller 3-feet

Your zoning district and front and corner side yard setbacks can be found under the [Zoning Ordinance Administration](#) tab on the Cook County Building and Zoning Website.

In commercial and industrial districts, the maximum allowable height of a fence along a common lot line is 10-feet. Fences in front yards and corner side yard setback zones cannot be taller 3-feet

3. Provide a signed letter of intent from a registered fence contractor. Hired contractors must be registered for ALL fence projects. If the installation is being done by the homeowner, the insured homeowner must register as a contractor for all fences enclosing a pool or body of water deeper than 24-inches and all fences that are taller than 5-feet. Please visit our website for the contractor registration requirements for homeowners or contracted companies.