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Residential Zones: Fence Heights

No.: BUILDING-44
Date: 2020-12-22

This bulletin is to inform Owners and Builders of the height regulations for fences in residential zones recently adopted in Richmond Zoning Bylaw No. 8500, Amendment Bylaw No. 10122 and Building Regulation Bylaw No. 7230, Amendment Bylaw No. 10144.

Summary

- Definition of fence height has been clarified to identify measurement parameters.
- Maximum fence heights in residential zones have been clarified.

Fence Height Requirements

- The maximum fence height of 2.0 metres (m) is permitted for fences constructed in residential zones and site specific zones that include residential uses. (Richmond Zoning Bylaw No.8500, Section 6.8.1)
 - A maximum fence height of 1.2 m is permitted for fences located in the front yard or between the principal dwelling unit and the front property line or public road.
 - A maximum fence height of 1.83 m is permitted for fences when located elsewhere within a required yard. (Richmond Zoning Bylaw No. 8500: Residential Zones)
- The use of barbed wire, electrified wire, razor wire, and barbed tape obstacles as fencing material is prohibited in all residential zones and in site specific zones that govern single detached housing. (Richmond Zoning Bylaw No. 8500, Section 6.8.5)
- A building permit is required for any fence construction with concrete foundations. (Building Regulation Bylaw No. 7230, Section16.1)

Measuring Fence Height

- Fence height is determined by measuring the vertical distance between the average finished site grade, measured 1.0 m from both sides of the property line, to the top of the fence. (Richmond Zoning Bylaw No. 8500, Section 6.8.3)
- Grading must be strategically managed to avoid impact with the maximum fence height limit shown.
- For more information, please refer to the diagrams attached.

References

- Please see Bulletin BUILDING-44 for regulations regarding fences in agricultural zones.
- [Richmond Zoning Bylaw No. 8500, Section 6](#)
- [Richmond Building Regulation Bylaw No. 7230](#)

Should you have any questions, comments, or suggestions concerning this bulletin, please reference the Bulletin number and email building@richmond.ca or call the Building Approvals General Inquiries line at 604-276-4118.

See over →

