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## **Agricultural Zones: Fence Heights and Materials**

**No.: BUILDING-45**  
**Date: 2021-02-09**

**This bulletin is to inform Owners and Builders of the fence height and material regulations in agricultural zones recently adopted in Richmond Zoning Bylaw 8500, Amendment Bylaw 10122 and Building Regulations Bylaw 7230, Amendment Bylaw 10144.**

### **Summary**

- Definition of fence height has been clarified to identify measurement parameters.
- Maximum fence heights in agricultural zones have been clarified.
- Acceptable materials for use in agricultural zones have been clarified in order to promote and maintain the agrarian character.

### **General Requirements**

- The maximum fence height of 2.4 m is permitted for fences constructed in agricultural zones and site specific zones that govern farm businesses. (Richmond Zoning Bylaw 8500, Section 6.9.1)
  - A maximum fence height of 1.2 m is permitted for fences located in the front yard or between the single detached housing unit and the front property line or public road.
  - A maximum fence height of 2.0 m is permitted for fences located in the side yard or between the single detached housing unit and the side property line.
- 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 8500, Section 6.8.5)
- A building permit is required for any fence construction with a concrete foundation. (Building Regulation Bylaw 7230, Section 16.1)

### **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 8500, Section 6.9.3)
- Grading must be strategically managed to avoid impact with the maximum fence height limit shown. See Bulletin [Building-44](#) for additional information.

See over →

## Material Regulations

The following are suitable materials and design for construction of agrarian fencing in the Agriculture zones. (Richmond Zoning Bylaw 8500, Section 6.9.4)

- Wood Post and Rail, minimum spacing between horizontal members shall be 0.3 m;
  - Diagonal cross bracing permitted if bracing between posts;
- Metal post and rail, minimum 0.3 m spacing between horizontal members;
- Wood Post and welded wire mesh;
- Steel Post and welded wire mesh; and/or
- Wood pickets, 8 cm minimum distance between pickets.

Fences in agriculture zones shall be constructed of materials limited to fence agrarian materials, except as noted in Richmond Zoning Bylaw 8500.

## References

- Bulletin [Building-44](#)
- [Richmond Zoning Bylaw 8500](#)
- [Building Regulations Bylaw 7230](#)

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