

Permitting for Fences

Reference City of Killeen Code of Ordinance [Section 31-850-859](#) and [Section 8-31](#) and [Chapter 12](#).

A building permit is required to erect a new fence or move, repair, or replace an existing fence on a property located within the City limits of Killeen. A fence permit must be obtained from the building inspections division **prior** to installation of a new or replacement (over 25%) of a fence.

Below is a list of questions to assist you in obtaining a Fence Permit:

Q: Where do I apply for a fence permit?

A: Apply in person at the Building Inspections department located at 100 E. Avenue C or email [building permit application](mailto:buildingpermitapplication@killeentexas.gov) to buildingpermits@killeentexas.gov.

Q: What supporting documents are required to be included with the building permit application:

The information required for a fence permit includes the height, materials, location of the fence, total linear footage, distances from each property line, (a survey of the property may be required).

Q: Is a contractor required to pull the building permit?

A: Contractors are required to be registered with the city and may apply for a permit with the property owner's authorization or a homeowner can also apply for the permit if they are performing such work with their own hands.

Q: When is a building permit for a fence not required?

Repair of an existing fence with like (same) materials of original construction and with no change to the original design or placement shall be allowed without permit for any improvement that does not exceed twenty-five (25) percent of the material area of the original fence (measured as length times width along the outside face of the fence) during a twelve (12) month period.

Q: How much does a fence permit cost?

A: \$0.25 per linear foot, minimum \$70. Please see the current [fee schedule](#).

Q: Must a fence be designed by an engineer?

A: Masonry, stone, rock and brick walls that are eight (8) feet or taller and pre-engineered walls/products require fence details signed and sealed by an engineer. Please note that retaining walls that are over four (4) feet over all height must be designed by an Engineer.

For all fences, plans and details must be legible, include all pertinent information (i.e. height, length, material, etc.), and preferably drawn to a 1/4-inch or 1/8-inch scale.

Q: How much time does it take to process and issue a fence permit?

A: Currently, the City strives to process all fence permits within 2 to 5 business days from receipt of a complete application. To help expedite your review, please ensure that all required documents and plans are submitted with the permit application in compliance with local codes and this bulletin.

Q: Will the fence be inspected once complete?

A: Yes, permitted fences, to include replacement of existing fences, will be inspected after work is completed. Inspections may be scheduled by calling the inspection hotline at 254-501-7766.

Q: Are there limitations to the type of materials that may be used to construct a fence?

A: Fence shall mean any barrier, constructed of **new materials** such as stone, brick, pierced brick or block, chain-link, PVC, wood, metal, or similar material. The use of used materials or other materials not listed shall be approved in advance by the executive director of planning and development services or his/her designee.

Q: What are other requirements to be aware of in particular zoning districts?

A: In residential uses and “B-1” zoning district:

Front yard:

The maximum height of a fence in a front yard shall be four (4) feet overall height as measured from the finished grade. The height requirement shall extend horizontally from the front property line to the required front yard setback. Front yard fences are not permitted in the right-of-way or [sight distance triangle areas](#). Fence columns shall not exceed twelve (12) inches above overall height of fence.

Side and rear yard:

The maximum height of a fence in a side or rear yard shall be eight (8) feet as measured from the finished grade. Side or rear yard fences that exceed six (6) feet shall not be constructed of chain link.

In “Residential”, “B-DC”, “HOD” or “B-1” zoning districts:

Barbed wire, fencing topped with broken glass, concertina wire, sharp objects, or electric fencing is **not** allowed.

Q: What kind of barrier is required around swimming pools?

A: Swimming pools require a fence/barrier surrounding the pool with a self-closing/ self-latching gate in accordance with the 2018 International Swimming Pool Code. Please refer to this [link](#) for more information on swimming pools and barriers.

Q: What are the requirements for gates?

A: Any gate opening that is constructed in conjunction with a fence must be at least three (3) feet in width to allow for passage of emergency personnel and equipment. An outward swinging front yard gate shall not lock in place if it extends across the property line or into public right-of-way.

Q: How do I know which side is the front of my property?

A: For corner or multi-frontage lot, the front is determined by the shortest street frontage of the lot. Where the lot is relatively square or unusually shaped, a request may be made to the Planning Director for a determination.

Q: What is the sight distance triangle also known as a visibility triangle?

A: Per [Section 31-857](#) - Fences on property that is at the intersection of two streets must not encroach within any visibility triangle. The visibility triangle shall mean a triangle sight area, at all intersections, which shall include that portion of public right-of-way and any corner lot within the adjacent curb lines and a diagonal line intersecting such curb lines at points thirty-five (35) feet back from their intersection (such curb lines being extended if necessary to determine the intersection point). This sight distance triangle must be kept free of fences that would obstruct the motorist's views of oncoming traffic in accordance with [Section 28-241](#). Please refer to this [link](#) to see an illustration of the visibility triangle.

Q: There is an easement on my property. Can I build my fence over or across the easement?

A: Fences may be placed over public utility easements; however, fences are subject to removal by the city or utility provider, at the landowner's sole expense, when access to the easement is necessary for the installation, removal, replacement and/or maintenance of utilities.

Walls or other fencing proposed to be located near a public utility easement or buried or above-ground utility equipment that are made up of masonry or a similar product and containing a poured foundation shall require review by the Public Works Engineer **prior** to approval. An encroachment agreement pursuant to [Section 8-31](#) will be required.

Fences may not be located within a drainage easement or floodway area.

Fences proposed within the 100-year Flood Plain require the review and approval of a Flood Plain Development Permit in compliance with [Chapter 12](#).

All fencing that will cause a diversion of water runoff or otherwise prevent the natural flow of storm water shall require review by the Public Works Engineer prior to approval.

Q: May I build a temporary fence?

A: Temporary fences are permitted subject to the issuance of a Fence Permit.

Q: Are there any other requirements for a fence?

A: All fences and fencing locations shall be in compliance with the requirements of the adopted Zoning, Building Code, Fire Code, Flood Plain or any other health and safety provision adopted by the City of Killeen whether or not implied herein.