

Fence Codes and Ordinances for Aurora, IL

With a population of 200,000, Aurora is one of the largest outer suburbs of Chicago. Sprawling into four counties, including Kane, DuPage, Will and Kendall, it's a city with a diverse cultural base that is making the transition from its former industrial economy. Its growth since the 1960s has been spectacular. A historic downtown and older neighborhoods combine with new shopping areas and upscale residential developments to provide housing opportunities for its many residents. Two Metra stations and major highways get commuters into Chicago, but most Aurora residents work within the community. Multiple public school districts serve families in the city.

General Regulations for Residential Fences

For homeowners, a wide range of homes exists in many neighborhoods. From affordable starter homes to stately, expansive residences on spacious lots, fence projects are always underway in the city, either built by owners or the many licensed contractors located in this community. Fence codes and regulations can be complex within this suburb, but are designed to create attractive, safe neighborhoods. Before installing a new or replacement fence, it's a good idea to visit the city's Building & Permits Division website to download a comprehensive guide to fencing and a permit application. The information below will help you understand city codes and get started on your plan.

- **Building Permit Required?** – A permit is required for all fence installations. The permit fee depends on project value.
- **Permit Documentation Needed** – Current plat of survey with fence heights and locations drawn to scale.
- **Fence Materials Allowed** – All typical residential materials are allowed, including wood, ornamental aluminum and steel, PVC vinyl and chain link.
- **Maximum Height Limits** – 6' maximum, in general. Specific locations on properties may have lower maximum heights.
- **Property Line Issues** – All posts and footings must be inside property line. The finished side must face outward.
- **Inspections Needed** – Final inspection is required after installation.
- **Building Authority Contact** – 630-256-3130
- **Building Permits Division Website**

Specific Rules and Ordinances

- **Front Yard Fences** – Open fences can be 4' high, maximum. Closed designs are limited to 3' in height. Driveway gates are allowed, but must match the fence's design. Fences must be set back at least 12" from walkways. No chain link materials are allowed in front yards.

- **Side Yard Fences** – Interior side yard fences may be 6' high if lot width is greater than 50'. A 4' height limit applies to lots less than 50' wide.
- **Back Yard Fences** – Solid or open fences up to 6' high are allowed.
- **Corner Lot Restrictions** – Exterior, solid side and rear yard fences abutting roads are limited to 3' maximum height, unless set back 5' or of open construction', when they can be up to 6' high. Chain link fences are prohibited on exterior side and rear lot fences next to roadways.
- **Through Lot Restrictions** – Rear fences adjacent to through streets are restricted to front yard standards, unless set back from the rear property line by 30'. Then they may be up to 6' high.
- **Other Restrictions**
 - Fences within a 15' triangle adjacent to public streets, driveways, bike paths, or walking paths are restricted to 3' in height for sight line visibility.
 - Decorative posts may extend up to 6" above maximum fence height.
 - Barbed wire, substandard materials, wire mesh, discarded materials, tarps and other materials are not allowed.
 - Back to back fences are discouraged, due to problems in maintaining the space between them.
 - Fences are NOT allowed in floodway areas, to enclose utility boxes, or on vacant lots except on adjacent lots owned by the same property owner.
 - Fences in drainage swales must not obstruct water flow.
 - Owners are responsible for locating property lines correctly.
 - Fences are discouraged in easements. Owners are responsible for damage due to work done in the easement.
 - No barbed wire, spiked or electrically charged fences are allowed, except in commercial zones when approved by zoning authorities.
- **Swimming Pool Fences** – Consult the Building and Codes Department for rules specific to swimming pool safety.
- **Homeowner's Association Issues** – If the property is governed by an HOA, the owner is responsible for following contract restrictions and covenants, which may be stricter than city rules.

Commercial Fence Codes

- **Maximum Height Information** – Maximum height is normally 6', but screening fences may be allowed up to 8' high for certain properties. Landscaping requirements may also apply to such fences. In some

non-residential zones, setback rules apply to fences abutting public right of ways.

- **Visible from Public Right of Ways** – These security fences must be ornamental in design. Chain link fencing may not be used adjacent to residential properties.
- **Security Rules** – Barbed wire tops may be allowed for high-security fences in M1, M2, and ORI zones, with prior approval.

Residential Fence Building Codes in Aurora, IL

Although a well-designed fence is a relatively inexpensive way to beautify any home and add value while protecting your family and pets, planning a project can be complex. In Aurora, regulations and codes can seem complex and difficult to understand. That's one reason why most homeowners opt to hire an experienced licensed contractor to handle the job. Contractors understand the city's rules and ordinances, and can give you great ideas for materials and design that you might not have considered. Your contractor will also handle getting the necessary permit and highly skilled workers will turn your ideas into a beautiful reality without the tedious, meticulous work of a DIY project. Contact a contractor in Aurora for a free consultation and price estimate. You'll be glad you did.