



Fence & Accessory Structure Requirements

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Accessory structures include sport courts, dumpster enclosures, cart corrals, domesticated animal runs, swimming pools, fences, walls, and other misc. structures.



A permit and fee is required for all accessory structures. If Restrictive Covenants for the property are on file with the applicable county, the more restrictive requirements apply.

1. Accessory structures that are constructed in any required yard areas shall not occupy more than thirty percent (30%) of the yard area in which it is located.
2. The 30% maximum shall include the total of all accessory structures and accessory buildings.
3. Accessory structures, except decks larger than 50 square feet and fence requirements listed below, shall be permitted in any yard.
4. Accessory structures shall not be constructed in such a way to impede drainage ways or interfere with overland flowage easements.
5. A minimum rear yard setback of five feet (5') and a minimum side yard setback of two feet (2') shall be maintained unless specified elsewhere in the city code.
6. Fences, retaining walls, domesticated animal runs, dumpster enclosures, swimming pools, and cart corrals all have additional requirements within city code.

INSPECTIONS

- Inspections may be required depending on the type of accessory structure being built.
- Inspections must be scheduled at least 24 hours in advance.

Fence: An enclosure or barrier constructed of wood and/or other material(s) used to delineate boundary, provide screening or prevent access to or from the area enclosed.

1. Fences in residential districts are allowed to be up to 6 feet in height.
2. Ornamental fences not exceeding 3 feet in height are permitted within the limits of any yard, however, no fence may interfere with the vision clearance triangle.
3. Fences in standard interior lots may be built to the front building setback line and to the side and rear property lines.
4. Fences may not be constructed within a public easement, including overland flowage/detention basin easements, unless it has been determined by City Staff that the construction of the fence will not affect the intended purpose of the easement. Fences that are allowed to be constructed within an easement will require up to an additional three weeks for reviewing and processing the permit.
4. The face of the fence should be equally attractive on both sides. However, if one side is considered less attractive due to structural members, etc., the less attractive side should face into the lot.
5. Only a 3 foot ornamental fence may be constructed in a front or secondary front yard on Berkshire Parkway and Boston Parkway west of NW 156th, regardless of regulations above.
6. Fences to enclose pool areas have special requirements within city code.



Call Before You Dig!
1.800.292.8989
Call the toll-free number at least
48 hours
prior to ALL excavations in Iowa.