

Fence Guide



***** ALL FEES DUE AT THE TIME OF APPLICATION *****

Permit for a Fence is required for new or replacement of existing fence.
If you are only replacing 16 ft. or less, no permit is needed.

Permit for Fence

Fence Permit Application:

Complete Application with a valid email address. Be aware of any subdivision restrictions prior to application. Permits can be secured by the homeowner or fence contractor. Approved permit will be emailed to the applicant. Permits applications can be emailed to bldg@sterling-heights.net

Required Plans for Fence:

Indicate the following on plot plan:

- Where fence will be located on property
- Distance of the fence from house and/or sidewalk
- Height of the fence

***** START WORK ONLY AFTER PERMIT IS APPROVED *****

***** Verify underground utilities - Call Miss Dig at 800-482-7171 *****

***** Barbed wire or other pointed tops/spikes of any kind are prohibited *****

***** No fence may be charged or connected with an electrical current *****

Installation of Fence:

- Fences must be installed within the property lines. If you are unsure of the property lines we recommend that you hire a third party survey company to provide you with your official property lines.
- All posts, cross members & screws/hardware for privacy fences must face inward.

Inspection of Fence:

Schedule Inspection at www.sterling-heights.net

- Final Inspection- schedule inspection once the installation is completed.

Fence Permit Denied? - Appeal Process

Denial can be appealed to the Ordinance Board of Appeals. Complete the application for [Fence Variance](#), contact 586.446.2371 for more information. A successful appeal demonstrates to the Board that all four (4) of following conditions exist:

1. There are extraordinary circumstances or conditions applicable to the property involved that do not apply generally to other properties in the city.
2. The variance is necessary for the preservation and enjoyment of substantial property right possessed by other properties in the vicinity.
3. The granting of such variance or modification will not be detrimental to the public welfare or materially injurious to the property or improvements in the vicinity of the property.
4. The granting of the variance will not adversely affect the purposes or objectives of any master plan of the city.

Fence Requirements

Type of Fences:

Sight Obscuring (Privacy Fence)

Not less than three (3) feet or more than six (6) feet in height. A fence that provides a visual barrier to persons outside the perimeter.

Non-Sight Obscuring

Not less than three (3) feet or more than six (6) feet in height. A fence that persons on the outside of the fence can see through. This includes fences constructed with a minimum of 3" of open space between vertical members.

Corner Lots:

Sight Obscuring Fences (Privacy Fence)

A sight-obscuring fence may be erected upon any side or rear lot line provided that such fence does not encroach into the required front yard. In addition, the fence may not project more than ten (10) feet into the required front yard which would be a side yard if it were an interior lot. Adequate access for firefighting must be provided.

Non-sight Obscuring Fences

All properties located on a corner with roadway on two sides are considered to have two front yards. A non-sight-obscuring fence may be erected upon any side or rear lot line, and along any front building line provided such fence does not encroach into the required front yard. Adequate access for firefighting must be provided.

Non-sight-obscuring fences of not less than three (3) feet or more than four (4) feet in height may be erected in the required front yard which would be a side yard if it were an interior lot.

Interior Lots:

Sight Obscuring Fences or Non-sight Obscuring Fences

A fence may be erected upon any side or rear lot line, and along the front yard setback line provided such fence is not less than three (3) nor more than six (6) feet above grade level at any location. Adequate access for firefighting must be provided.

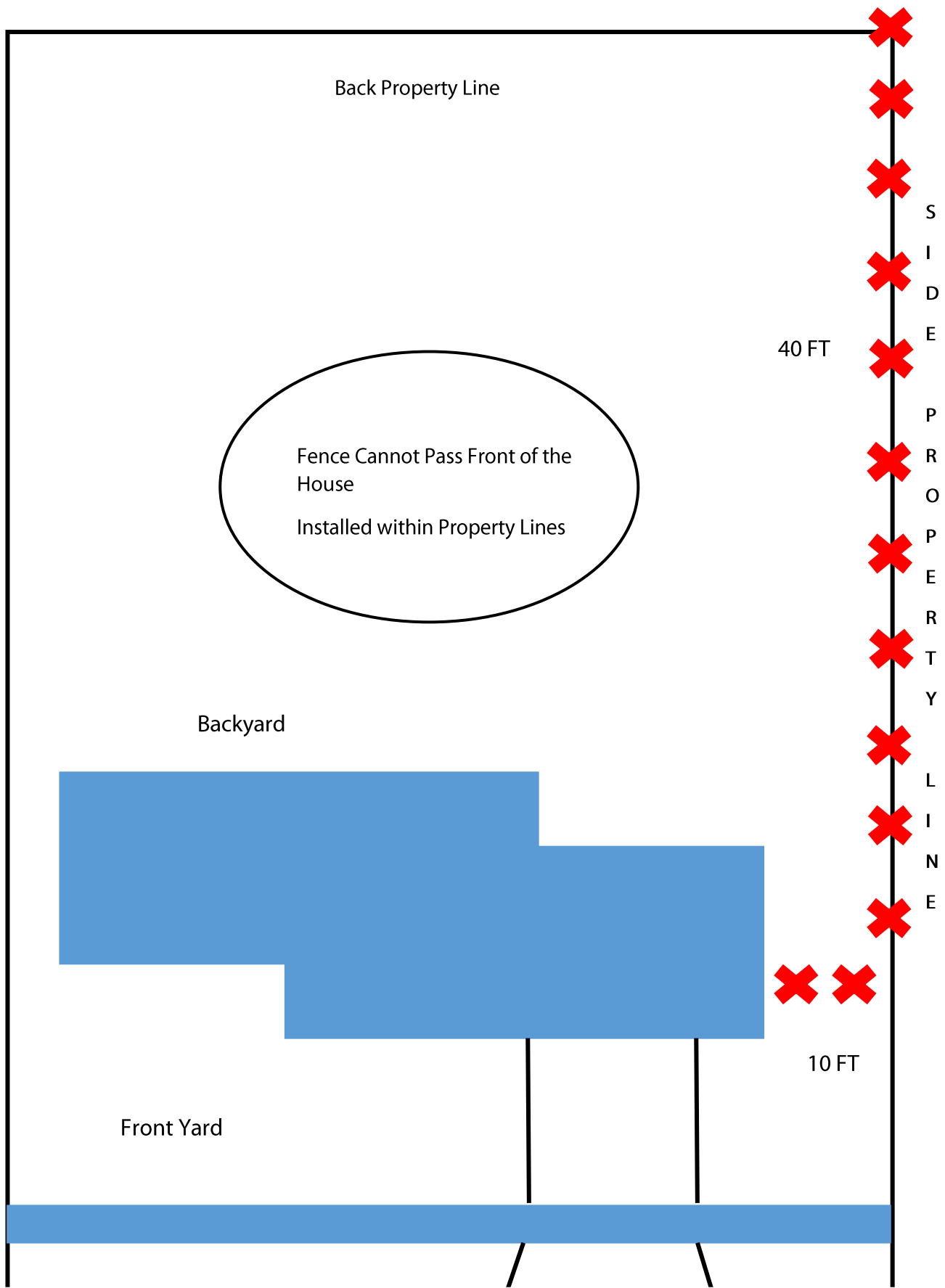
Fences are not permitted to extend into the front yard.

Fence Plot Plan Sample:

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Back Property Line

Fence Cannot Pass Front of the House
Installed within Property Lines

Backyard

Front Yard

40 FT

10 FT

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