



Fences

SKAGITCOUNTYWA.GOV

Skagit County

Planning and
Development Services



Visit us at:

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This information only applies to property within unincorporated Skagit County and does not apply to property within incorporated city limits.

A **fence** is defined as “constructed or composed of materials joined together in some definite manner in which the prime purpose is to separate, partition, enclose, or screen.” Hedges and other vegetated screening methods are not regulated as fences.

When is a building permit required?

A building permit is required for any fence including ones with partial block walls over **seven feet** tall, measuring from the ground to the top of the fence. Any fencing material used that exceeds 7 feet in height will require engineering for wind and seismic.

Where can a fence be placed?

Fences must meet setback requirements from property lines unless exempt, in which case they may be placed at the property line. See the table below.

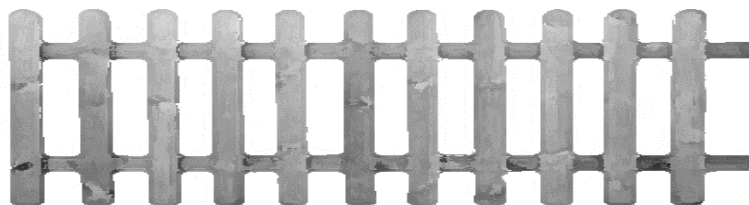
Note: If property corners are unknown, a licensed surveyor maybe be required to determine property boundaries.

Zone	Height Exempt from Setbacks
Commercial-industrial or aviation-related zones	8 feet or less
Guemes Island	See note below
all other zones	6 feet or less

Requirements for fences on Guemes Island:

- A fence that is more than three feet tall must be 50% open to be set within 10 feet of the front lot line.
- A fence that is less than 50% open and more than three feet tall must be setback at least 10 feet from the front lot line.

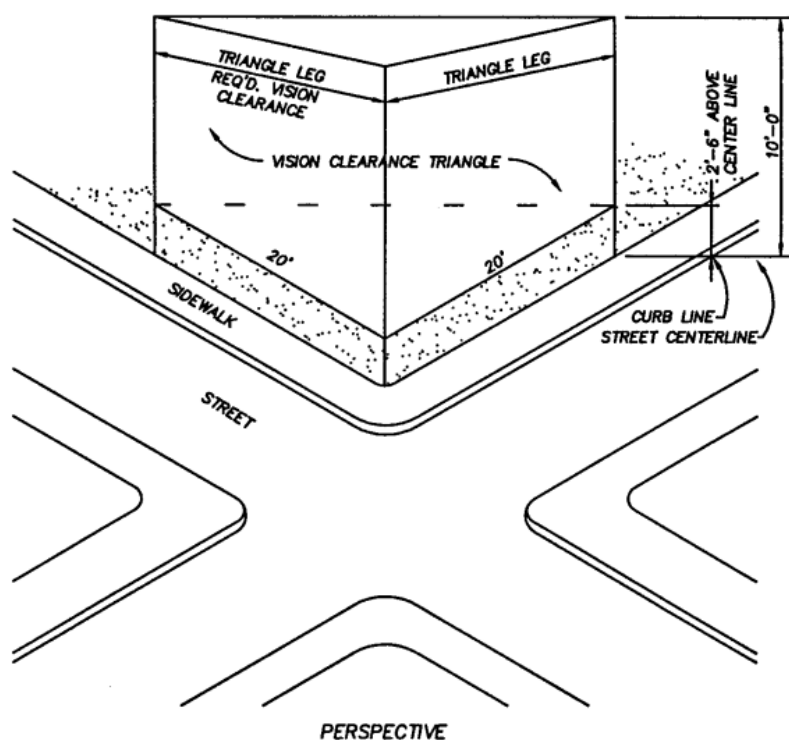
Example below shows a 50% open fence which allows light to pass through:



What are the requirements for corner lots and driveway entrance?

A corner lot fence must also meet County Road Standards. On a corner lot in **any zone**, nothing shall be erected, placed, planted or allowed to grow greater than 2.5 feet in height in the vision clearance triangle. The vision clearance must also be met for a driveway entrance. See figure 1.

Figure 1.



Use the link for additional information regarding Skagit County Road Standard: [Road Standards](#)

Is a Flood Permit required to build a fence?

Yes! If the property is in the floodplain, a flood permit is required.

How do I apply for a permit?

Apply using the online portal: [Civic Access Portal](#)

Who should I contact if I have questions?

You may contact us if you have any questions via:

Online: [Ask a Permit Tech](#)

Remember, asking questions first can save lots of headaches, heartaches, and money!