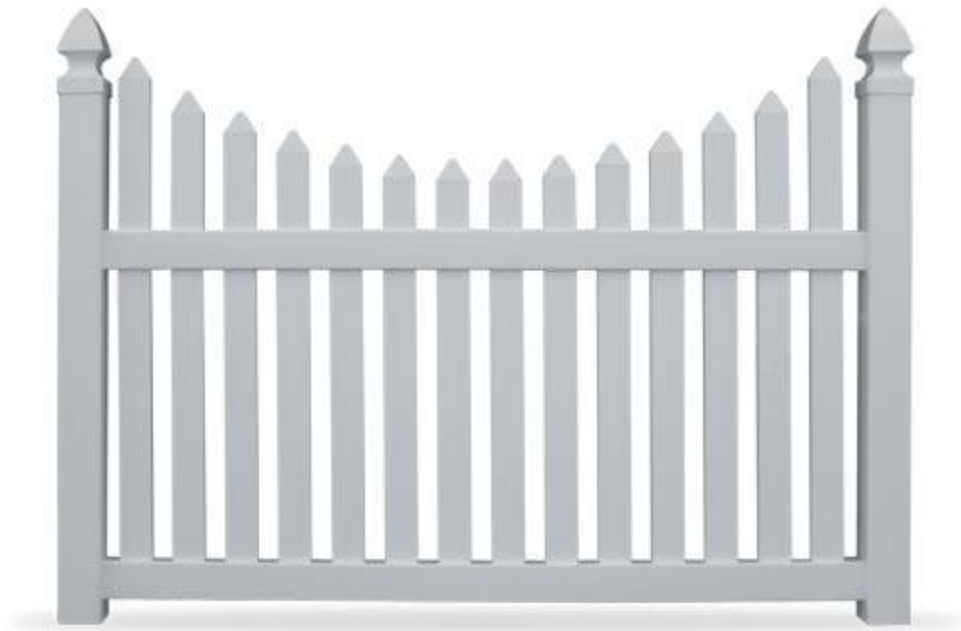


# Township of Palmer, Pennsylvania

## Fence and Wall Zoning Regulations

*Based on Palmer Township's Zoning Ordinances*

(Revised and Printed January 2026)



**THE USE OF THIS PACKAGE IN LIEU OF SUBMITTED DRAWINGS APPLIES TO RESIDENTIAL FENCES. FENCES MUST BE CONSTRUCTED IN CONFORMANCE WITH PALMER TOWNSHIP'S ZONING ORDINANCES AND THE 2021 INTERNATIONAL RESIDENTIAL CODE (AS APPLICABLE), WHICH SUPERCEDES ANY DISPREPANCY LOCATED HERE WITHIN.**



**FENCE** — A man-made barrier placed or arranged as a line of demarcation, an enclosure or a visual barrier that is constructed of wood, chain-link metal, vinyl or aluminum and/or plastic inserts. Man-made barriers constructed principally of masonry, concrete, cinder block or other materials shall be considered a wall. The terms "fence" and "wall" do not include hedges, trees or shrubs. The term "wall" does not include engineered retaining walls, which are permitted uses as needed in all districts. [§ 190-202]

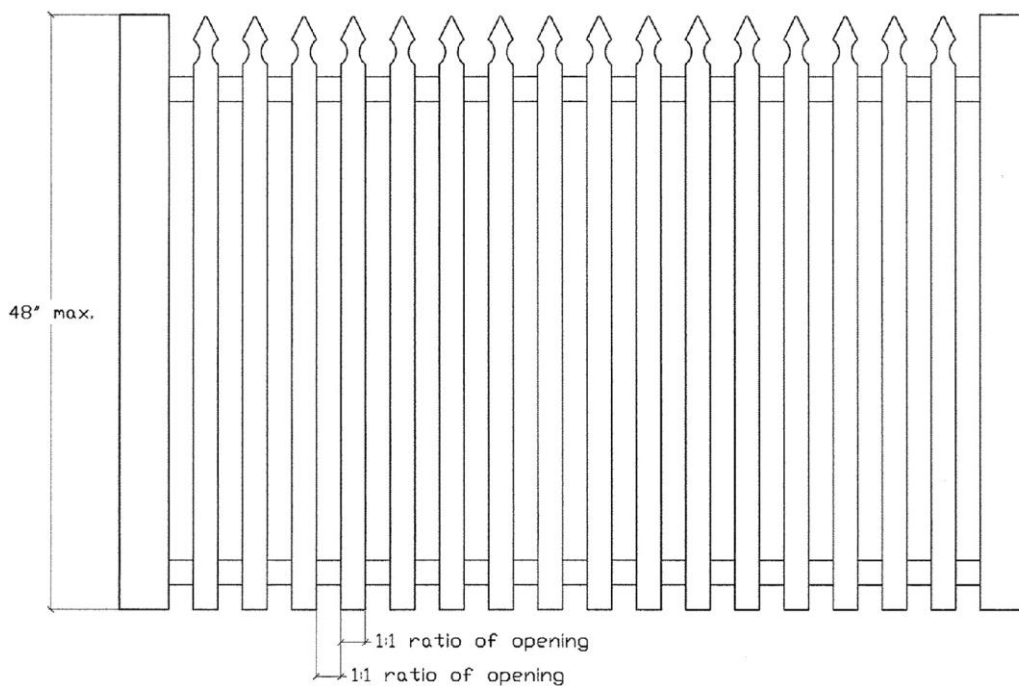
## **FENCES, WALLS, HEDGES**

### **A. General provisions for all zoning districts.**

1. No fence, wall, or continuous hedge shall be located within the existing right-of-way of a public street nor shall be constructed at a height greater than nine feet.
2. No fence, wall, or continuous hedge shall be erected at such a location as to interfere with minimum sight distance specifications, as established within § 190-804 and the adopted subdivision and land development regulations of Palmer Township.

### **B. Fences on lots within residential districts or of any primarily residential use shall be subject to the following regulations:**

1. Barbed wire or electrified fences shall not be used surrounding a dwelling.
2. Front yard fences. Property line fences may be installed along the front lot line and along the side lot lines between the front lot line and the front building setback line to a height not exceeding four feet, provided that:
  - a. Fences shall have a minimum ratio of 1:1 of open to structural areas.
  - b. If the fence is wood cover or wood frame, the framework must face onto the interior of the lot, unless the fence is so designed as to provide equal frame and cover area.
  - c. If the fence is open metal mesh supported by posts and frames of either pipe or wood, the posts and frames must be on the interior of the mesh.
  - d. If the fence is of masonry construction, a finished mortar or paint surface must be provided on the exterior side. The maximum height of a fence panel in a front yard shall be four feet.



Example of 1:1 Ratio

3. Rear and side yard fences. Property line fences may be installed along the rear lot line and along the side lot lines between the rear lot line and the front building setback line to a height not exceeding six feet, provided that:
  - a. If the fence is wood cover or wood frame, the framework must face onto the interior of the lot, unless the fence is so designed as to provide equal frame and cover area.
  - b. If the fence is open metal mesh, supported by posts and frames of either pipe or wood, the posts and frames must be on the interior side of the mesh.
  - c. If the fence is of masonry construction, a finished mortar or paint surface must be provided on the exterior side.

If a property is located on a corner lot, front yard setbacks apply to any property line that abuts a street, in accordance with sight triangle requirements of § 190-804 (below):

C. Sight distance (or triangle). – An area required to be kept free of visual obstruction.

(1) Sight distance at intersections.

- (a) Purpose. To ensure that traffic passing through an intersection or turning onto a street can safely see oncoming traffic.
- (b) A triangular area as described in this section shall be graded and shall be kept free of sight obstructions between the ground level and a height of 10 feet above the center-line grade of the intersecting streets, including structures, nontransparent fences, vegetation and signs (but not including mowed grass, posts of official signs which must be located in the sight triangle because of their function or the trunks of existing trees whose branches are kept clear of the sight triangle).
- (c) This sight distance triangle shall be shown on development plans submitted to the Township and be shown on any plan required to be recorded. Such triangle shall serve as a permanent setback line for all such visual obstructions and shall be binding upon present and future owners of the land.
- (d) Such triangular area shall be bounded by the intersecting street center lines and a diagonal connecting two points, one which is at each end of the center lines of each street as follows:
  - [1] One hundred fifty feet from the intersection of such street center lines, if either street is an arterial street (see Figure 2).
  - [2] One hundred feet from the intersection of such street center line if either street is a collector street (see Figure 2).
  - [3] Seventy-five feet from the intersection of such street center line if both streets are local streets (see Figure 2).

(2) Sight distance at intersections of driveways or accessways with streets.

- (a) A triangular area as described in Subsection C(1) above shall be graded and shall be kept free of sight obstructions between the ground level and a height of 10 feet above the center-line grade of the intersecting driveway, accessway or street, including structures, nontransparent fences, vegetation and signs (but not including mowed grass, posts of official signs which must be located in the sight triangle because of their function or the trunks of existing trees whose branches are kept clear of the sight triangle). [Amended 12-17-2001 by Ord. No. 2001-311]
- (b) This sight distance triangle shall be shown on development plans submitted to the Township and be shown on any plan required to be recorded. Such triangle shall serve as a permanent setback line for all such visual obstructions and shall be binding upon present and future owners of the land.
- (c) Such triangular area shall be bounded by the intersecting street center lines and a diagonal connecting

two points, one of which is at each end of the center line of each street, accessway or driveway 30 feet from the intersection of such center lines.

- (d) No sign shall be placed or vehicle parking located in such locations that would obstruct clear sight lines necessary for the safe movement of traffic out of any driveway or accessway onto a street.

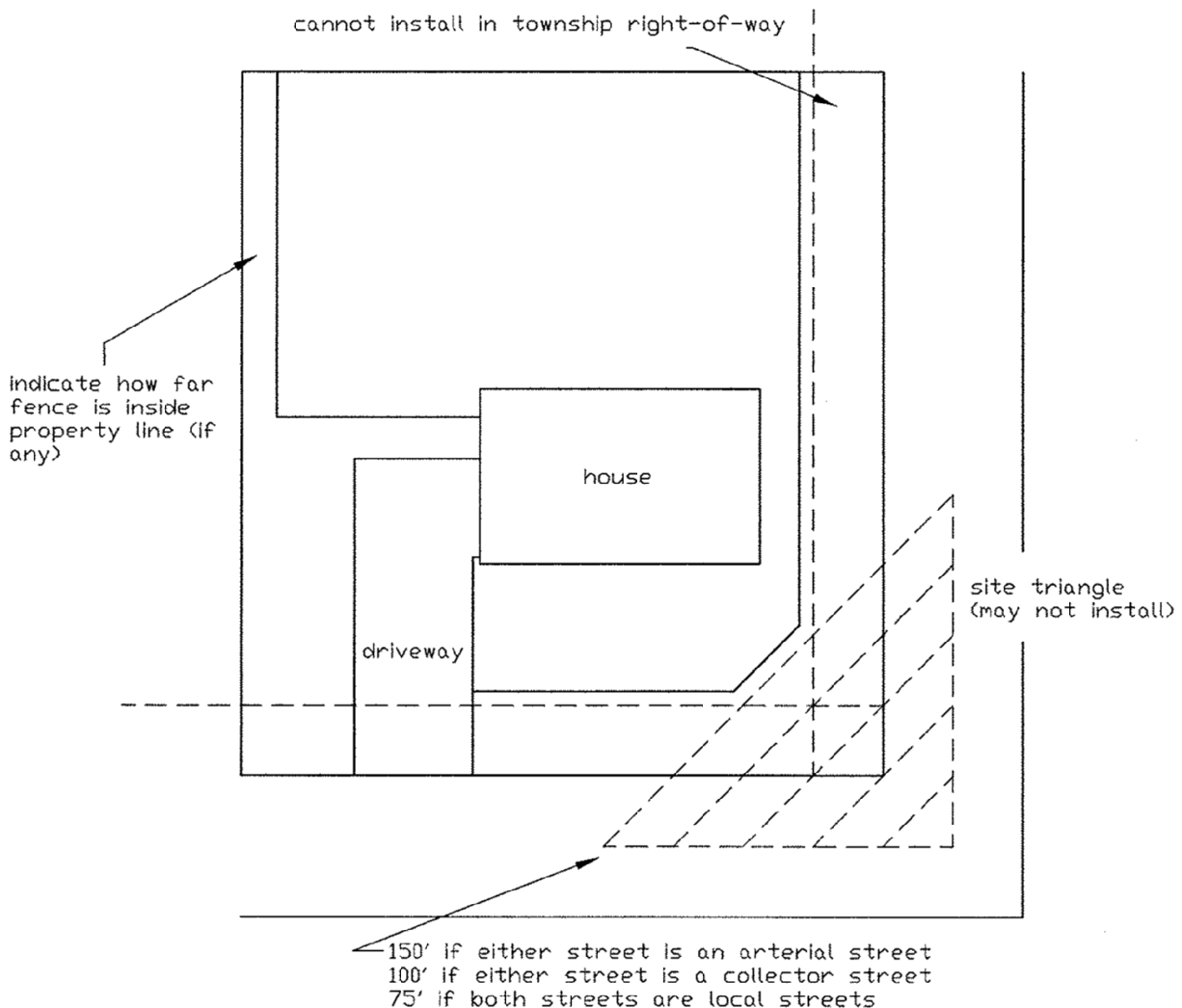


Figure 2

## **RETAINING WALLS**

Retaining walls that are not laterally supported at the top and that retain in excess of 24 inches of unbalanced fill shall be designed to ensure stability against overturning, sliding, excessive foundation pressure and water uplift. Retaining walls shall be designed for a safety factor of 1.5 against later sliding and overturning. Engineering retaining walls to hold back slopes of earth shall be permitted upon approval of a zoning permit containing a complete set of construction plans. Guards may be required (check with Building Official).

Any wall higher than three (3) feet in the required front yard of a residential use in the LDR, MDR, or HDR districts shall require a special exception, and shall be permitted only if compatible with the character of the area.

Walls may be one (1) foot in height for every two (2) feet they are set back from a lot line, up to a maximum height of six feet. All walls shall be architecturally compatible with the structure and the landscape.

## PERMIT APPLICATION SUBMITTALS

Site plan and fence/wall details are required to be submitted when applying for a fence permit. The site plan must include the fence in reference to the house and property lines (see example below). This shall indicate the setbacks of the fence/wall, if any, from the property lines. Any misrepresentation will be handled by our Zoning and Building Department and may impose violations, fines and the removal of such installed structures.

Fence details including the size, measurements and cost of the materials of the fence or barrier shall be included when applying for a permit. If a contractor is installing a fence, please supply contractor's name, address and phone number.

Once one has applied and paid for the permit, it will undergo the approval process. The zoning and building departments shall have 30 business days to review each application and contact the owner or agent with any questions/concerns. When the permit is approved, it will be mailed to the applicant's house. Please post such permit in a window/door visible from the street during the construction project.

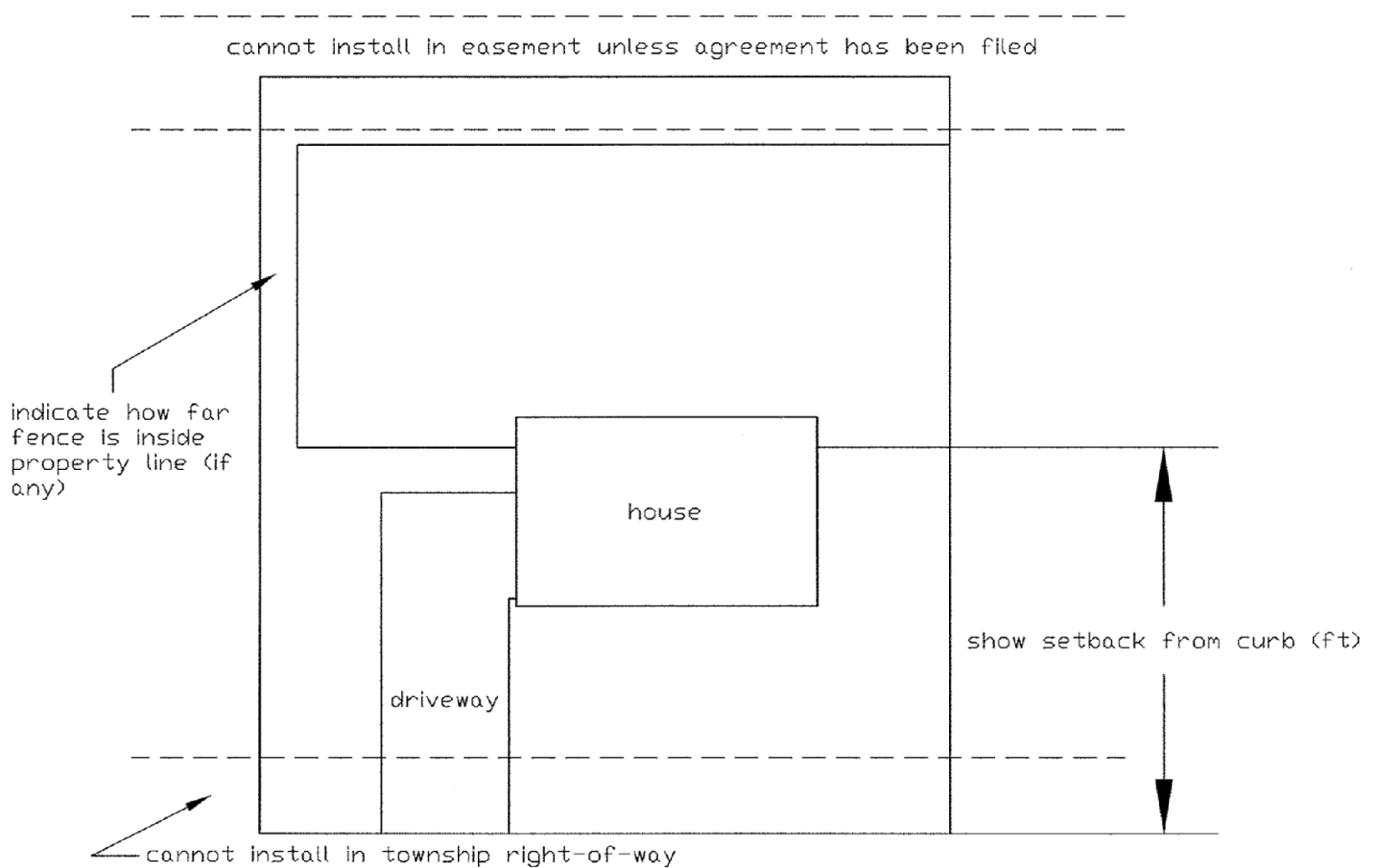


Figure 3: Example of Plot Plan

Permit price for fence: (call for price)

Permit price for wall: (call for price)