

Fence Permit Information

Frequently asked questions about putting a fence on your property

Q: Do I need a permit to put up a fence?

A: YES. In West Hempfield, a fence is considered an accessory structure and therefore requires a Zoning Permit and possibly a Construction Permit Application.

ARTICLE 700 – SUPPLEMENTAL REGULATIONS

SECTION 701 COMMON REGULATIONS

§ 701.4 FENCES AND WALLS

No fence or wall, except agricultural fences or required and permitted buffer fences or walls, or a retainer wall of a building permitted under the terms of this ordinance shall be erected to a height of more than three feet in a front yard or more than six feet in any other yard. No fence or wall shall be located within any clear sight triangle required by this ordinance or the Township Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance. No fence or wall shall block motorists' view of vehicles entering or exiting the property. Fences or walls within the front yard shall be a minimum of one foot behind the street right-of-way line. Fences or walls may exceed six feet in height provided they are located to the rear of the building or dwelling and meet the required set back of the zoning district for accessory structures. The maximum height of such fences or walls shall be eight feet. No electric fences shall be permitted on a residential lot. Maintenance of fencing shall be considered when the fence is erected.

Q: How do I apply for a fence permit?

A: It's easy. Residents can download the zoning permit form at www.westhempfield.org under the Departments tab. In addition, the Township will need to see a drawing of the property plot plan, the location of the house and where the fence will be installed, along with the linear measurements from the house to the fence and from the fence to the property lines.

Q: What if I am replacing a fence?

A: If the replacement fence is the **EXACT SAME HEIGHT** and is being installed in the **EXACT SAME LOCATION**, then you do not need a permit.

Q: What if I want to install an 8-foot fence or add sections to an existing fence?

A: If you are installing an 8 foot fence it needs to be 10 feet off the property line and the fence requires inspections. Zoning **and** Construction Permits needed. If you are adding sections to an existing fence, a permit is required.

Q: What about fences around pools?

A: A fence (or a replacement fence) surrounding a pool requires permits and inspections. Zoning **and** Construction Permits needed.

If you are not sure if you need a permit for your new or replacement fence, please contact the Zoning office at 717-285-5554 and we will answer your questions