

Building Permits & Inspection Division

General Information: (916) 875-5296
<https://building.saccounty.gov/>

9700 Goethe Rd • Suite A Sacramento 95827 M-F 8:30am-4:00pm

827 7 th St • Room 102 Sacramento 95814 M-F 8:30am-4:00pm
--

Masonry Wall, Fence and Retaining Wall Guideline

Descriptions of fencing and masonry wall construction for permit application:

Fencing:

- Fencing exceeding 7 feet in height requires a building permit. This shall include wood, wrought iron, chain-link, vinyl fencing.
- Fencing exceeding 7 feet in height may require a special use permit through the Planning Department, please call 916-874-6141.
- There may be restrictions regarding the type and height of fence located in a front yard. Please consult with the Planning Department for these restrictions, please call 916-874-6141.

Masonry Walls:

- A masonry wall is not considered a fence. A building permit is required for block, masonry, stone, concrete and stucco walls over 4 feet in height measured from the bottom of the footing to the top of the wall.
- There may be restrictions regarding the type and height of a masonry wall located within a front yard. Please consult with the Planning Department for these restrictions, call 916-874-6141.

Retaining Walls:

- Retaining walls of any type that are over 4 feet in height, measured from the bottom of the footing to the top of the wall, requires a building permit. Any height retaining wall that is supporting a surcharge due to buildings, vehicles, or other structures that increase the vertical stress and consequently the lateral stress on the wall requires a building permit.
- A fence that is built on top of, or into a retaining wall, is a surcharge on the wall. A building permit is required.

Measuring height of Fence:

- How to determine the height of a fence: When the fence is located within 5 feet of the public right of way, the height of the fence shall be measured from the grade located on the right of way side of the fence. If the fence is located beyond 5 feet of the right of way, the height of the fence shall be measured from the highest grade elevation on either side of the fence.

Permit Submittal: Provide legible site plan and structural calculations stamped and signed by engineer to our [online portal](#). Site plan to include site address, full scope of work, all property lines with dimensions, north arrow and scale, show wall heights and linear footage(s), indicate if walls are retaining or freestanding.