

South Whitehall Township

FENCES

1. **Permit Required:** Any fence or wall taller than four (4) feet, except fences for agricultural purposes, a Fence permit application is required and shall be subject to a zoning review. If the fence is to enclose a pool, a Fence permit is required and shall be subject to a building code review. The pool enclosure must comply with the 2009 International Residential Code Appendix G. Please see the *Residential Swimming Pool Guide* for further information. If any digging is necessary, a PA One Call must be placed and the serial number recorded. PA One Call 1-800-242-1776.
2. **Maximum Height:** Fences more than thirty percent (30%) solid shall not be taller than six (6) feet. Open wire mesh fences and fences less than thirty percent (30%) solid shall not be taller than ten (10) feet.
3. **Retaining Walls:** Retaining walls may not be taller than six (6) feet above the uphill (retained side) of the adjacent ground. Retaining walls separating grade levels of greater than forty-eight (48) inches require an engineered design.
4. **Prohibited Fences:** The following fences and fencing materials are prohibited:
 - a. Barbed wire except that surmounting a “man-proof” fence and at least six (6) feet above ground level except in rural, residential and agricultural districts or where land is being used for agricultural, horticultural, nursing, including raising and keeping of farm animals.
 - b. Fabric.
 - c. Electrically charged fences except in rural, residential and agricultural districts or where land is being used for agricultural, horticultural, nursing, including raising and keeping of farm animals.
 - d. Broken glass surmounting a wall.
 - e. Junk including but not limited to discarded vehicles (such as automobiles, trucks, busses, trailers, etc.), appliances (such as refrigerators, washers, dryers, etc.), assembled or partially assembled materials (such as tanks, construction materials, bales, barrels, etc.), and/or raw materials (such as stone, cement, sand, mineral ore, coal, wood, dirt, etc., except those used for the construction of a permanent dyke, dam or berm).
 - f. No fence shall be erected within any public utility or drainage easement.
5. **Exempt Fences and Walls:** Temporary fences and walls such as snow fences, fences or barriers around construction sites and construction sharing which are not to stand more than one (1) year are exempt from the permit and height requirements of 1, 2, and 3 above.
6. **Setbacks:** There are no setbacks for fences, per se. They must, however, be entirely on the fence-owner’s property. Knowledge of the property lines, particularly with regard to street rights-of-way, clear-sight triangles, paper alleys, easements and Home Owner Association restrictions, is essential.
7. **Obstruction of Vision:** No fence or wall is to be erected or maintained contrary to the requirements of the Clear-Sight Triangle section of the Township Ordinance.