



City of Kingston – Fence Guide

What You Need to Know Before Building a Fence

The City of Kingston's [Fence By-law](#) regulates the height, construction, placement, materials and swimming pool enclosure requirements for fences. The [Property Standards By-law](#) also requires that fences be maintained in good repair.

Standard Fence Heights

Fence height limits vary based on property location and context. Heights are measured from the exterior side of the fence.

Fence Location	Fence Height	Construction	Permit?
Within Urban Boundary of floor level(s)	1.8 meters + 1 foot lattice (max 2.1 meters)		No
Outside Urban Boundary	2.4 meters		No
Single, semi or row house adjacent to multi-unit, commercial, industrial or institutional or a highway (exterior side or rear yard)	2.4 meters		No
Industrial or public utility property	2.7 meters	12-gauge galvanized steel chain link with 1.5" diamond mesh	No
Private Pool Fence	1.2 meters	Chain link (12 gauge, 1.5" mesh) with posts every 3 meters; or board fence with 4x4 posts every 2.4 meters and vertical supports every 600 mm	Yes
Public Pool Fence	1.8 meters	Same as Private	Yes
Front Yard – general	1.2 meters		No
Front Yard - corner lot adjacent to street	1.0 meter above center line of street		No

Fence By-law Exemptions

The fence bylaw does not apply to fences that are required or approved as part of a development application, agricultural property fences necessary for animal containment or fences surrounding sports or recreational facilities that were lawfully constructed.

Fence By-law Prohibitions

Barbed wire and electrified fencing are not permitted on a residential property or on a non-residential property that is adjacent to a residential property, highway or public property unless covered with wooden laths to protect against injury to people and animals.

Swimming Pool Enclosures

A Swimming Pool Enclosure permit is required for any body of water over 600mm in depth. A permit must be issued before construction or excavation begins.

Requirements

- A temporary 1.2-meter fence must be installed before ground excavation.
- Permanent fence must be at least 1.2 m from the wetted edge of the pool.
- Exterior fence surfaces cannot contain projections that facilitate climbing within 1.2 meters.
- Fence posts must be set 1.2 meters into concrete below grade.
- Maximum space beneath fence to grade cannot exceed 50 millimeters.
- Gates must be self-closing and have a self-latch at least 1.20 metres above the bottom of the gate.
- Pools must be in the rear yard, with the wetted surface at least 1.5 m from all property lines.

More Information



[Fence Bylaw](#)

[Accela Citizen Access](#)

Above Ground Pools and Hot Tubs

- Pool walls can serve as part of the pool enclosure if wall height is at least 1.5 meters, and all ladders are enclosed with a gate meeting swimming pool enclosure requirement.
- Hot tubs and swim spas with lockable covers are exempt from pool enclosure permits if located in the interior side or rear yard at least 1.5 meters from the property lines, or 7.5 meters from an exterior property line.

Electrical Clearance

Overhead power lines within 5 meters horizontally of the pool must have a minimum vertical clearance of 5 meters above the pool and equipment.

Access to Property

For accessing your property through municipal lands, an entrance permit may be required through transportation@cityofkingston.ca.

Building Permit Submission

Applications can be submitted online through Dash and must include:

- Site plan and elevation drawings showing property lines, pool location, accessory structures and equipment locations, fence location, construction details including self closing gates and existing and proposed grades.
- Any right of way, easement or retaining wall locations.
- Septic bed and tank locations (where applicable).
- Completed Ontario One utility locate form. Call 1-800-400-2255 before digging.

Contact Us

This guide was produced by the City of Kingston. If you have any questions or comments, please contact us at the following: Permit Application and Inspections; 613-546-4291 extension 3280; Buildingpermits@cityofkingston.ca; CityofKingston.ca