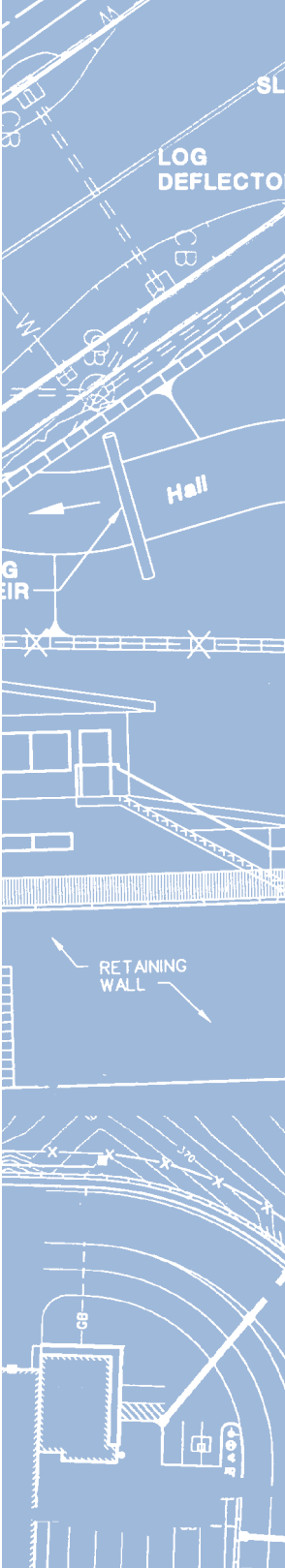




# Residential Fences



**Q:** Do I need a permit to build a fence?

**A:** Not if your fence is 6 feet high or less. If your fence exceeds 6 feet in height, please call the PDS Permit Counter at (425) 388-3311 or 1-800-562-4367, ext. 3311, to talk about additional permitting requirements.

**Q:** How close to the property line can I place my fence?

**A:** If your fence is 6 feet high or less, you may place your fence right on the property line, if you wish. If your fence is over 6 feet high, it must meet all zoning code structure setback requirements. The height of a fence is measured from its top surface, board, rail, or wire to the ground on which it stands. Where a fence is built on top of a retaining wall, fence height must be measured on the up-hill side. Up to three strands of wire are allowed on top of fences 6 feet or less in height.

**Q:** Are the regulations any different for a corner lot?

**A:** Yes. All corner lots must maintain, for safety vision purposes, a triangular area free of trees, fences, shrubs and other physical obstructions higher than 42 inches above the established street grade. (When the sides forming the street corner angle measure 40 feet or less, no fences or freestanding walls more than 4 feet in height are permitted within the area comprising the triangle.) See the illustration on the reverse side.

**Q:** How do I measure the "triangle?"

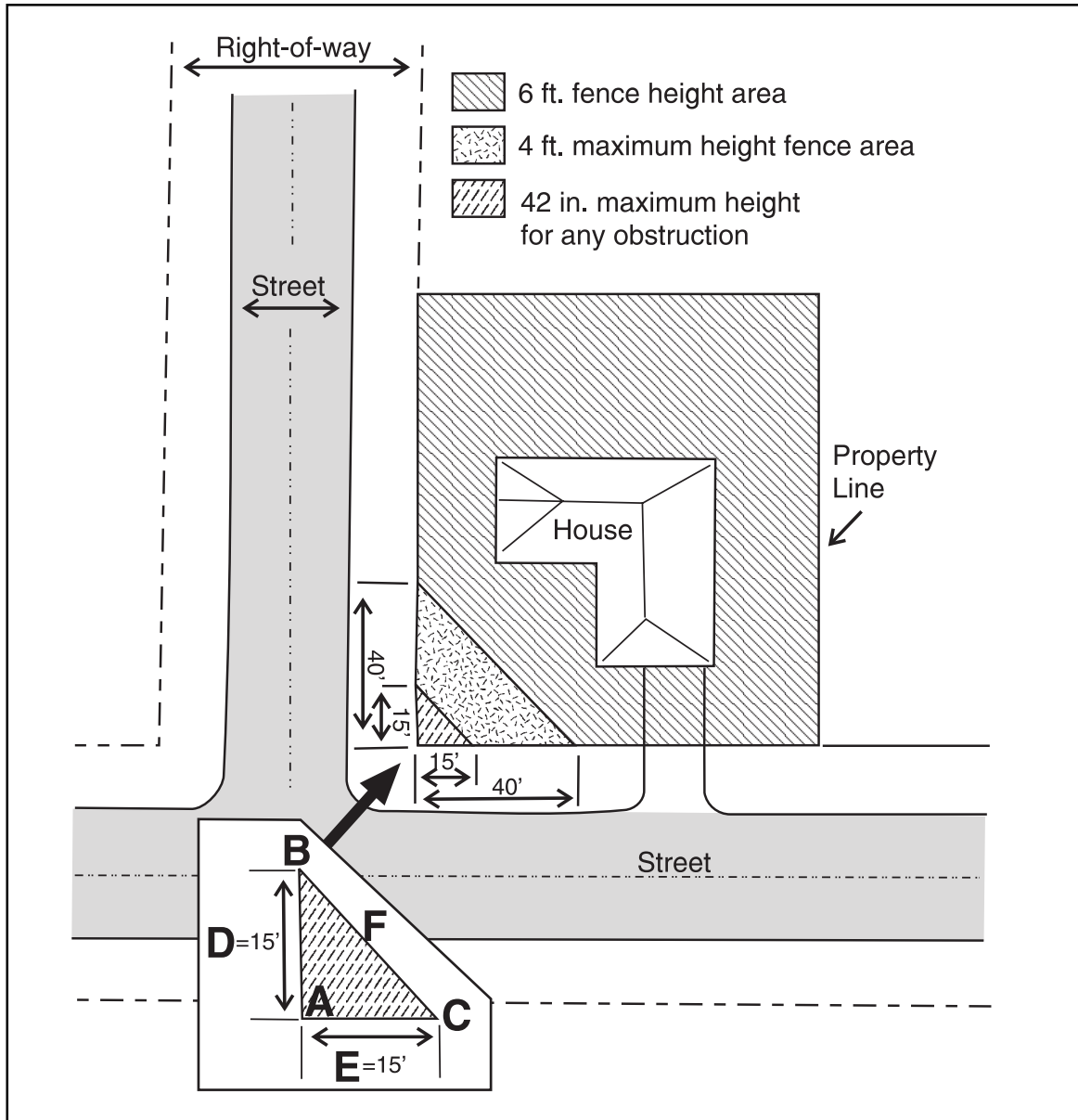
**A:** Follow these easy steps:

- One angle of the triangle (Point A in the diagram on reverse side) is formed by the intersection of the front and side lot lines (Lines D and E).
- From that point, measure 15 feet straight out from the corner along each of the two lines. These are Points B and C.
- Then draw a straight line (Line F) connecting Points B and C (forming the third side of the triangle).
- To calculate the 4-foot maximum-height fence area, extend Points B and C out 40 feet from Point A along Lines D and E.

**Q:** What if my fence is going to be built as part of a commercial or public facility?

**A:** Open wire mesh or similar type fence may be erected higher than the maximum heights permitted around playgrounds at private schools and parks, public facilities, industrial and commercial uses, transmitter and transformer sites, or government installations where security or public safety are required. (See Snohomish County Code for information on non-residential fences.)

(continued on back)



*This bulletin is intended only as an information guide. The information may not be complete and is subject to change. For complete legal information, refer to the Snohomish County Code.*