

property line. The fencing along the side and rear yards is allowed to go up to six feet high. On corner lots, the height of the wall in the corner area cannot exceed two-feet. Please refer to the fence and wall checklist for a diagram along with further information. This information can be obtained on the City website.

What do I need to bring to the counter?

- Photographs of the existing house.
- A site plan showing the property lines, walkways, driveways, landscaped areas including trees, and existing and/or proposed fences, walls, or hedges. Specify the length, height, and materials.
- Elevations (front view) of the fence or wall. Identify the materials, finishes, colors, and design features. Specify the height.
- Catalog brochure of proposed fencing or wall material.

How much are the fees?

The Planning Division review fee is \$70 for fences or walls, and can be reviewed over the counter during regular counter hours as long as all the information is submitted at the time.

The Building Division fee is based on the cost of labor and materials of the wall.

How can I get more information?

Contact Planning and Building Divisions at 626.308.2806 if you have questions. We can give you a checklist of the information you need to provide when you are ready to install your fence or wall, or you can download the checklist from our website at: <http://sangabrielcity.com/cityservices/communitydev/planforms.shtml>

Counter Hours

**Monday through Friday from
8 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. to 5 p.m.,
Tuesdays
8 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.**

We encourage you to call for an appointment so that we can provide you personalized attention.

This brochure is intended to provide useful guidance about fence or wall installation issues, but is not a comprehensive listing of applicable codes. We encourage you to consult with our planning and building personnel for more information.



What You Need to Know to Build a Fence or Wall

Frequently Asked Questions

City of San Gabriel
Community Development
Department

Tel: (626) 308-2806,
Press 4

What Do Fences and Walls Say About Your Home?

The fences and walls in the front yard enhance curb appeal. Fencing plays a major role in the overall appearance of a yard. If a fence is old and ready to fall down, it detracts from the appearance of the entire property. Old fences can also pose a safety problem for children and pets.

While some homeowners may choose giant, wrought-iron gates and huge statues to mark the entrance to their driveways, the secret to an aesthetically pleasing driveway and front yard is to create one that is open and inviting to your visitors, in scale with your home. There are several ways to create the perfect entrance to your home that is attractive and yet durable.

Types of Fences and Walls

- **Living Fence:** A row of shrubs or bushes can serve as a great privacy divider. Maintenance includes occasional pruning. Look for colorful bushes or evergreen shrubs. Avoid woody plants that could scratch your car next to driveways.
- **Wood Fence:** It's inexpensive, but there is maintenance involved. You need to paint or stain the boards and then redo it every few years.

- **Vinyl Fence:** This ranges in price, but is generally less expensive than other materials. There is very low maintenance and you don't have to worry about painting it. Over time, the fence will age.
- **Wrought Iron Fence:** This can cost more. They come in many styles and colors. However, they may rust or corrode over time, although they will last longer than wood fences. They are attractive because they are open.
- **Brick/Stone/Concrete Block Wall:** This is the most expensive, but also the most long lasting. It also gives you the most privacy. However, keep in mind that a solid wall appears to close your property off from the surrounding neighborhood, instead of creating an open and inviting feel.

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)

An aesthetically pleasing fence may be safer than hard barriers such as a concrete block wall or wrought iron fencing. One concept of CPTED is natural surveillance, based on the idea of keeping intruders easily observable. It is promoted by features that maximize visibility of people, pedestrian-friendly sidewalks and streets such as shortest, least sight-limiting fencing. Another concept called natural access control is based on the idea that physical design can create or extend a sphere of influence. Home owners develop a sense of territorial control while potential offenders who perceive this control, are discouraged. Landscape plantings and aesthetically pleasing fences can define property lines.

What Type of Fencing or Wall Should I Use?

The City's adopted Single-Family Residential Design Guidelines states: "The transition between the house and its surrounding properties is central to creating an attractive property and neighborhood. Generous landscaped setbacks create this transition from the street and neighboring properties."



Nicely Landscaped Setback

A low, screened picket fence, set back thirty inches from the front property line with landscaping makes a good transition from the sidewalk to the yard. This area should not just be turf, but layered to provide a colorful and aesthetically pleasing transition, and must be irrigated by an automatic irrigation system.

Open fences are strongly encouraged, as they create a more inviting feel to your home. If you want more privacy and prefer a solid wall, use brick, stone, or a mixture of split-face block and precision concrete block. Otherwise, you can stucco the concrete block wall to match the house.

What Are the Basic Standards?

The maximum height of fences in the front yard setback (area in front of the house) is four-feet, and must be set back thirty inches from the front