

UTILITY LOCATES

CAUTION - Call before you dig! Call for **FREE** utility locate service at least two working days in advance.

ELECTRIC:	1-800-242-3447
GAS:	1-800-242-3447
WATER / SEWER	1-403-529-8176
SHAW	1-866-DIG-SHAW
TELUS	1-800-242-3447



Utility locate slips must be provided with all applications for development. Applicants must submit original utility locate slips.

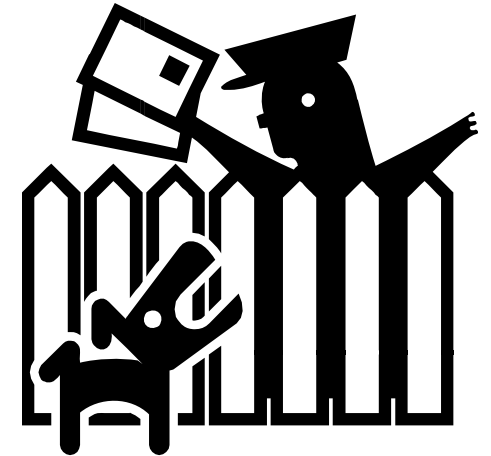
For further information see pamphlet "CALL BEFORE YOU DIG!"

CITY OF MEDICINE HAT

Planning & Building Services
580 First Street S.E.
Medicine Hat, Alberta
T1A 8E6

CITY OF MEDICINE HAT

Fences & Retaining Walls



Updated: March 3, 2006

REMEMBER WHEN BUILDING A FENCE AND/OR RETAINING WALL:

- ◇ A retaining wall and its foundation must not encroach onto City property, your neighbor's property or onto a utility right-of-way.
- ◇ Construction of a retaining wall can alter established lot grades which can impede established lot drainage. The Land Use Bylaw prohibits directing surface drainage onto your neighbor's property. Corrective measures may be necessary at your expense.
- ◇ While a properly constructed retaining wall is less likely to fail (for example collapse, crack, or topple, etc.) there is still a possibility that failure may occur. The failure will affect your investment and may lead to costly repairs which you the owner are responsible to pay for.

This pamphlet is produced by the City of Medicine Hat's Planning & Building Services Department. This pamphlet has no legal status and cannot be used as an official interpretation of the various codes and regulations currently in effect. Users are advised to contact the P&B Department for assistance as the City of Medicine Hat accepts no responsibility to persons relying solely on this information.

DO I NEED A BUILDING PERMIT FOR MY FENCE & RETAINING WALL?

Retaining walls should be avoided if possible. If a retaining wall is needed, please note:

- ◇ Retaining walls higher than 0.6m (24") require a Building Permit.
- ◇ If the retaining wall exceeds 1.22m (4') in height, then the drawings submitted with the Building Permit application must be prepared and sealed by a Professional Engineer licensed to practice in Alberta.
- ◇ The *Alberta Building Code* requires a protective barrier such as a railing or fence if there is a difference in elevation to the adjacent surfaces more than 0.6m (24"). The railing must be a minimum of 0.9m (36") in height to prevent accidental falls from one level to the other. If the difference in elevation between the two surfaces exceeds 1.8m (5.9'), the protective barrier must be at least 1.07m (42") in height.

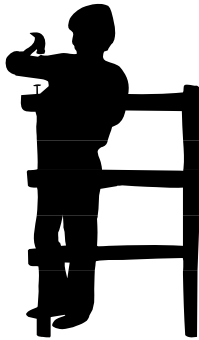
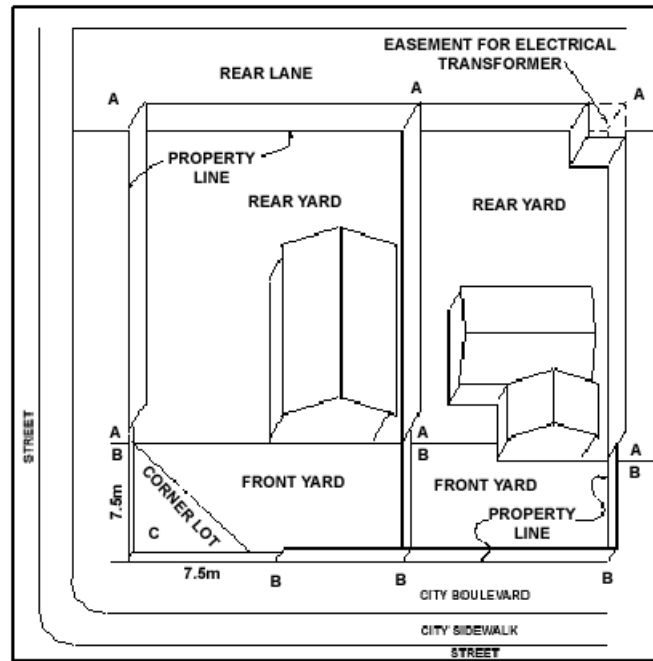


Figure 1
Relationship of Fence to the Property Line



DO I NEED A DEVELOPMENT PERMIT FOR MY FENCE & RETAINING WALL?

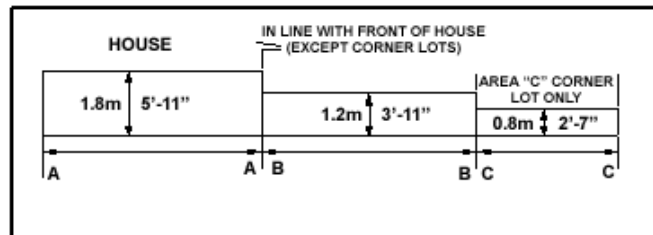
A Development Permit is not required for the construction of a fence unless the combined height of a retaining wall and the fence on top of the retaining wall exceeds the height shown in Figures 1 & 2.

WHERE CAN'T I CONSTRUCT A FENCE AND/OR RETAINING WALL?

Fences and retaining walls are not allowed on city property or utility rights-of-way. City property includes road rights-of-way and the adjoining boulevard as well as municipal and environmental reserves.



Figure 2
Height Restrictions (Fence + Retaining Wall)



From A to A Maximum height = 1.8m (5'11")
 From B to B Maximum height = 1.2m (3'11")
 From C to C Maximum height = 0.8m (2'7")

Both the Alberta Building Codes & Land Use Bylaw are metric; hence the above imperial equivalents may be approximate.