

City of Tarpon Springs Building Development Department Fence Permit Policy

The following description of services should be applicable to the majority of residential and commercial chain link, vinyl, and wood fences that we typically see permitted within the city limits.

During the initial permitting process, the owner or owner's agent shall be present to apply and/or purchase the permit. A clearly legible survey with all pertinent dimensions of the property in question will be required for all applications. If the proposed fence is to be installed in or on a utility easement, a license agreement for easement available from City of Tarpon Springs Planning and Zoning Department that is properly recorded with the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Pinellas county will be required. Most fence permits will need to be reviewed by City of Tarpon Springs Planning and Zoning Department prior to issuance, thus delaying the issuance of the permit to a future time or date depending on the complexity of the project.

The purpose of offering and requiring fence permits in the City of Tarpon Springs is to insure the installation meets the intent of the City of Tarpon Springs municipal code and the Florida Building Code in certain circumstances. The City of Tarpon Springs Municipal Code #36.03 (A) through (H) and Florida Building Codes as applicable shall be met when the fence is used to protect a swimming pool.

After any fence permit is issued and the fence is installed, a properly scheduled inspection will be required. During the inspection, our building inspectors will check the fence meets the height requirements of the permit, the basic length and width of the installation, the general location in relation to physical objects on site and delineated on the survey, the finished side of the fence is placed outward of the subject property, and the other visibility requirements of the municipal code. In cases where the fence is part of the physical barriers of a swimming pool as required by the Florida Building Code, the gates must swing outward from the protected area, the gates must be self-closing and latching, the operable portion of the gate handle must be at least 54" above the standing surface, the height must be at least 48" above the grade on the outside of the fence, and if any metallic portion is within 5' horizontally of the water edge it must be attached to the equal potential bonding of the swimming pool.

Our inspectors cannot and will not be responsible for locating and deciding if the fence is installed within the boundary lines of the subject property. In addition, the Building Development Department cannot resolve disagreements between property owners involving location of property lines in relation to fence installation. Any scenarios resulting in a disagreement between property owners and the location of fences in relation to property lines will be considered a civil matter to be decided by the court system.