



Does the Shire have a Local Law for fences?

Yes, the Shire has a Local Fencing Law 2008 which outlines acceptable materials, height and dimension for fences within the Shire of Northam. A copy of the Local Law can be obtained from the Shire's website or alternatively a copy can be obtained by visiting the Shire Offices at 395 Fitzgerald Street, Northam.

What materials can I use to build a fence on a residential lot?

Fences constructed on residential lots are permitted to be constructed wholly or partly of the following materials:

- Timber
- Corrugated Fibre Reinforced Pressed Cement Sheeting
- Steel Sheeting (such as Colorbond)
- Brick
- Stone
- Concrete
- Pool type fencing (front fences only)

All fences are required to be constructed in accordance with specifications of the First Schedule of the Shire's Local Fencing Law 2008.



What materials can I use to build a fence on a rural lot?

Fences constructed on rural lots are permitted to be constructed of five strand 'Ringlock' type farm fencing. The following materials are permitted to be used for posts:

- Timber
- Standard Iron Star Pickets
- Concrete

Do I need a Licence to use an electric fence?

On all non-rural lots, an owner or occupier is required to obtain a licence from the Shire to have and use an electrified fence. A licence is not required to have and use an electrified fence on a Rural Residential, Rural Smallholding or Rural zoned lot.

Can I have a razor wire fence on a residential lot?

No fences constructed wholly or partly of razor (or barbed) wire are not permitted on a residential lot unless a specific licence has been granted by the Shire under the Local Fencing Law 2008.

How high can I build a fence on a Residential zone lot?

Fences between two properties (the dividing fence) are permitted to be a maximum of 1.8m high.

If the fence in the front fence (ie. along the front boundary of the property) then the maximum permitted height of the fence located within the setback area is 1.2m high. It is also possible to erect a 1.8m high fence in the front setback area provided that the fence is 50% visually permeable (ie. see-through) above 1.2m in height in accordance with Clause 5.2.4 of the Residential Design Codes of Western Australia. Please refer to the image below which shows an example of this type of fence.



Do I need Shire Approval to construct a fence?

Fences constructed of masonry (including retaining walls) that are higher than 0.5m require Development Approval and a Building Permit from the Shire of Northam.

What if part of the fence is a retaining wall?

If part of the fence is intended to be a retaining wall than higher Development Approval and Building Permit will be required if the retaining wall is more than 0.5m.

Do I need Shire Approval to construct a Pool Fence?

Where can I find more information about who is responsible for a dividing fence?

The *Dividing Fences Act 1961* specifies the regulations for the erection and maintenance of dividing fences in Western Australia. The Dividing Fences Act 1961 is regulated by the Department of Commerce (Building Commission) and can be contacted on 1300 48 90 99 or via their website at

<https://www.commerce.wa.gov.au/corporate/contact-information>



Where do I find more information?

Further information can be obtained from the Shire's Planning Services Department on 9622 6133 or 9622 6143 or via email at records@northam.wa.gov.au

The information contained in this brochure is intended as a guide only. It is recommended that the advice and assistance of the Shire's Planning Services Department be sought prior to lodgement of a Development Application. The Shire of Northam disclaims any liability for any damages sustained by a person acting on the basis of this information.

www.northam.wa.gov.au