

Measuring Fence Height

Measurement of a fence is not defined in the Building Code. The measurement is used to determine if a building permit is required for the fence. Fences will be measured as shown to the top of the fence not including post/caps. Grade or ground for the purposes of fences is the native materials directly below the structure. See the figures below. Not all scenarios may be addressed, the building official will address those individually.

A fence built where the ground provides the support for the fence shall be measured from the ground directly below the fence to the top of the fence. This includes fences built behind retaining or landscape walls that do not use the retaining wall for gravity (vertical) support.

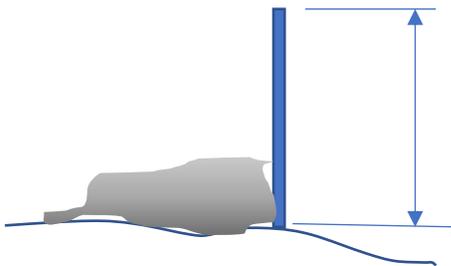


Figure A

Materials placed against a fence do not determine the height of the fence. Where materials are placed against the fence shall be measured from the exposed side.

When materials retained behind a fence exceed four feet, the fence will require a permit for a retaining wall.

Where the fence depends on support of the wall, the wall (landscape blocks, rocks or concrete) shall be designed as a retaining wall and a permit obtained for the wall.

Dimension x1 must equal dimension or exceed dimension x2, otherwise a retaining wall permit will be required

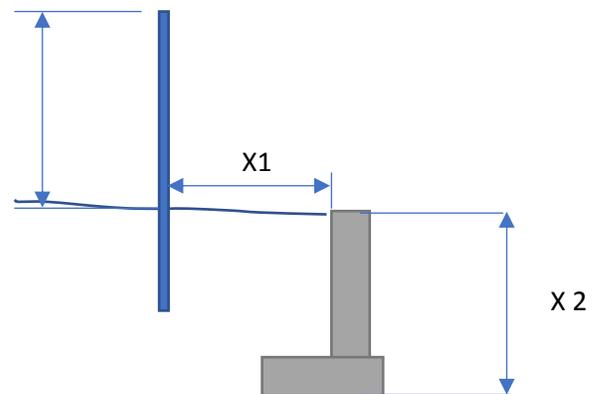
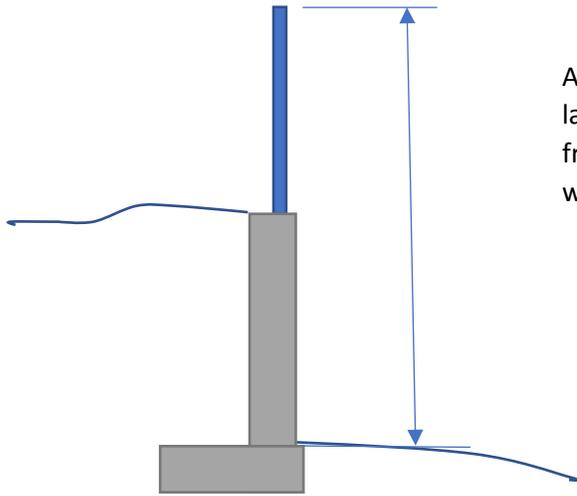


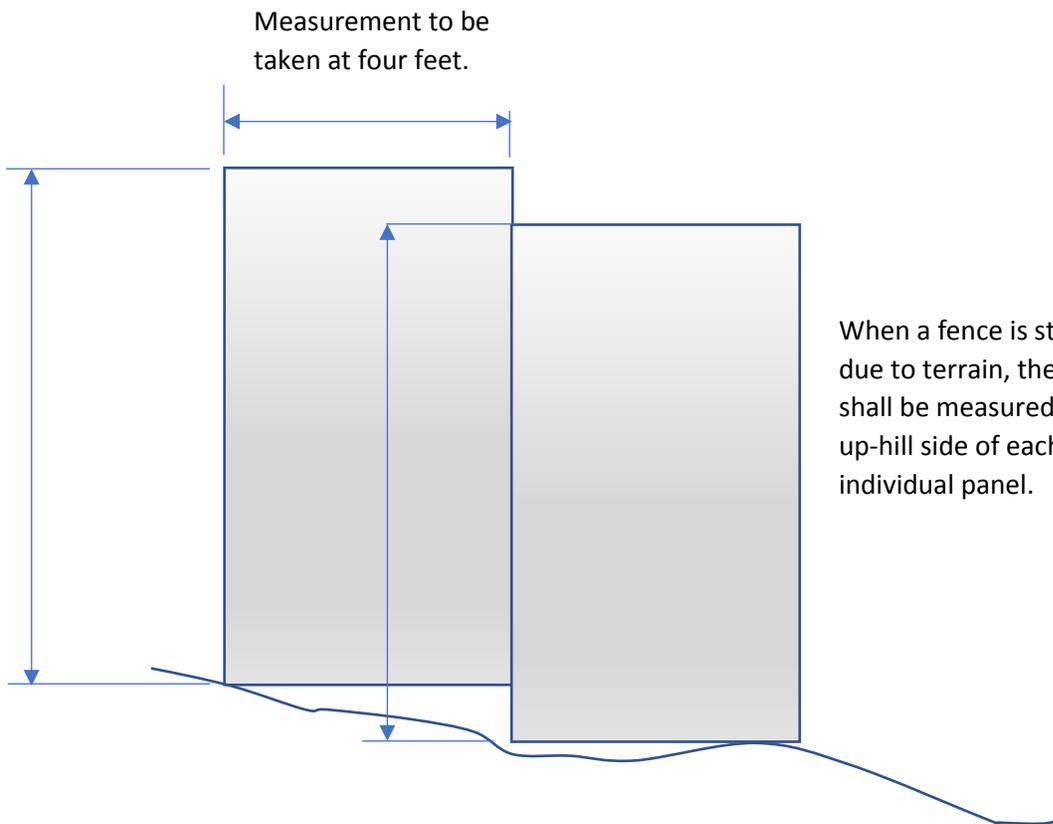
Figure B

Fences



A fence built on top of a retaining or landscape wall shall be measured from the base of the wall were the wall meets the ground.

Figure C



When a fence is stepped due to terrain, the fence shall be measured at the up-hill side of each individual panel.

Figure D