FENCE ADVISORS

Durham, NC

Fence permit planning sheet

REVIEWED OCTOBER 24, 2026 / CITY JURISDICTION ONLY

The starting point

Durham UDO 3.7.2E lists permit-free fences as site-plan exempt, not blanket approval for pool barriers, retaining walls, electrical work or special sites. Confirm jurisdiction, zoning/frontage, historic and flood conditions with Planning and Building & Safety. COA and floodplain cases use their specific Planning submission routes; required building applications use Dplans, with building fees and inspections through LDO. Obtain required issued approvals before work.

Before work starts

- [ ] Confirm City of Durham jurisdiction, zoning tier, Design/historic status and the actual property boundaries.
- [ ] Describe the fence runs, material, height and new/replacement scope; flag pools, retaining work and powered equipment.
- [ ] Classify each street-facing and interior run using building lines and preserve required sight triangles and access.
- [ ] Check floodplain, stream-buffer, easement and right-of-way conditions before relying on ordinary-fence treatment.
- [ ] Use the specific Planning or Dplans application route when required, confirm documents and fees, and secure issued approvals.
- [ ] Follow the applicable inspection instructions and keep drawings, written classifications and completion records.

Not a permit, property survey, engineering plan or legal determination.

Confirm current rules, site conditions and required approvals with the authority.

Official sources, conditions and the full guide:

fenceadvisors.com/blog/durham-nc-fence-permits-code

Original worksheet: CC BY 4.0 / Keep jurisdiction, review date and source link attached.