FENCE ADVISORS

Madison, WI

Fence permit planning sheet

REVIEWED OCTOBER 24, 2026 / CITY JURISDICTION ONLY

The starting point

Madison's current Fence or Hedge service says no building permit is needed to put up an ordinary fence. Check adopted 28.142(11), actual yard/setback location, natural or approved grade, vision clearance, PD conditions and covenants before work. Ask Zoning to resolve a nonstandard proposal or uncertainty; use the applicable separate approval route when needed. The general repair-over-$500 contact note is not a new-fence trigger. Do not apply this ordinary-fence guidance to pool barriers or combined retaining/electrical work.

Before work starts

- [ ] Confirm City of Madison jurisdiction, current zoning, PD conditions and any special site restrictions.
- [ ] Describe ordinary new fence or repairs separately from pool, retaining-wall or electrical work.
- [ ] Locate legal property lines, required yards, access points, easements and applicable vision-clearance areas.
- [ ] Check screening versus ornamental design, strict opacity thresholds and natural/approved grade.
- [ ] Ask Zoning about uncertainty or any separate approval; confirm its actual route and fee before work.
- [ ] Arrange utility locates, install the compliant scope and keep any approval records and maintenance obligations.

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/madison-wi-fence-permits-code

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