

# Fences and Landscape or Retaining Walls

Gwinnett County has adopted ordinances (regulations) to help protect neighborhood character, safety, and property values. Poorly maintained fences and landscape or retaining walls can have a negative impact to the community:

- Look unattractive and disorderly, which can decrease property values
- Fences and landscape or retaining walls that are not structurally supported and anchored, or that have protruding nails or screws, can hurt people and animals or damage property
- Can negatively impact the privacy and security of the community

## Plan of Action

Maintain your fence in good repair:

- Reattach loose fence boards.
- Replace damaged / rotting boards or posts.
- Replace missing portions of fence.
- Address any nails or screws that stick out (protrude) from the fence.
- Ensure your fence supports itself; don't prop it up.

Remove fencing made of prohibited materials:

- Woven wire, metal fabric (chain link, hog wire, or barbed wire) or electric, exposed concrete blocks, tires, scrap metal, sheet metal, plastic / fiberglass sheeting, vinyl siding or fabric, plywood, pallet material, junk, or other discarded items
- Repair or replace rotted or damaged landscape or retaining wall

## What does the ordinance say about fences and walls? Property Maintenance Ordinance (14-284):

Fences & walls shall be maintained in a structurally sound condition and in good repair. Fences shall be free from loose or rotting materials and shall have braces and supports attached or fastened in accordance with common building practices. Fences shall be maintained free of nails protruding more than 1/16th inch beyond the face of any uncovered fence member. All multi-family parcels which contain 8 units per acre or more, shall be fenced on all sides with a chain link or wrought iron fence or other material approved by the Director of Planning & Development, no less than 4 feet in height. All damaged or missing portions of a fence shall be replaced with comparable materials and shall be attached to the existing portion of the fence. Fences shall not be externally braced in lieu of replacing or repairing posts, columns, or other structural members.

**Unified Development Ordinance 230-80:** Walls and fences are permitted in all residential zoning districts with no setback requirement. They cannot exceed 8 feet in height within a side or rear yard. Corner lots have 2 front yards. Any wall or fence in the front yard of a property less than 3 acres:

1. Cannot exceed 4 feet in height
2. Must be ornamental or decorative, made of brick, stone, wood, stucco, wrought iron, or split rail
3. Cannot be made of woven wire, metal fabric (chain link, hog wire, or barbed wire) or electric

No wall or fence can be made of exposed concrete blocks, tires, scrap metal, sheet metal, plastic / fiberglass sheeting, vinyl siding or fabric, plywood, pallet material, junk, or other discarded items (residential and commercial). Walls and fences are not allowed to be placed in the county right of way.

Learn more at  
[GwinnettCodeEnforcement.com](http://GwinnettCodeEnforcement.com)  
 or 770.513.5020