Nelson City Council
te kaunihera o whakatū

RESIDENTIAL ZONE ONLY

Building a fence?

Good fences make good neighbourhoods

Combinations of height, see-through or partly-solid fences and landscaping helps create safe and secure neighbourhoods, pedestrian friendly streets and good-looking properties.

See the rules about fences overleaf >

For full details visit www.nelsoncitycouncil.co.nz (search phrase = Plan Change 14)

IN THE RESIDENTIAL ZONE:

Your new fence...

Planning Rules

This is a guide to the rules about fences in your neighbourhood.

(Always refer to the Nelson Resource Management Plan for rules in full)

For fences the rules vary depending upon the type of street or boundary your property is located on. Fences are permitted without the need for a resource consent if it complies with the rules below:

On an Unclassified Road (local road)

Unclassified = Sub collector, Local or Residential Lane (refer Map A2.1 NRMP)

In a front yard (first 4m) or on a front boundary the maximum height is 1.2m.

OR

For any fence over 1.2m in height the maximum height does not exceed 1.8m and the entire fence is visually permeable.

On a Classified Road (through road)

Classified = Collector, Principle and Arterial (refer MAP A2.1 NRMP).

In a front yard or on a front boundary the maximum height does not exceed 1.2m.

OR

For any fence over 1.2m in height the maximum height does not exceed 1.8m and at least 50% across the entire front boundary is visually permeable (as measured by the total length of the front boundary and the height of the fence).

On a boundary with a reserve, walkway or other publicly owned space

The maximum height does not exceed 1.2m within 1.5m of the boundary.

OR

For any fence over 1.2m in height the maximum height does not exceed 1.8m and the entire fence is visually permeable.

On all other boundaries — The maximum height is 1.8m.

Using board or paling fences? — Structural railings do not face a road, walkway or other publicly owned space.

Meaning of words

Fence includes a hedge.

Hedge means a row of shrubs capable of developing to a height of over 1.0m, having branches or leaves that interleave so as to form a visual or physical barrier.

Height in relation to a structure means either:

a) the vertical distance between any part of the structure and ground level immediately below that part of the structure, or

b) the vertical distance between the highest part of the structure and mean ground level.

Splay is an area clear of obstruction, usually set a distance back from the road edge and along the road to allow drivers to see oncoming traffic.

Visually permeable for front fences means the ability to clearly see through from the street to the front yard of the site, and is determined by a comparison of the solid portion of the fence structure against any gaps provided within the structure, or between fence structures.

Existing Use Rights

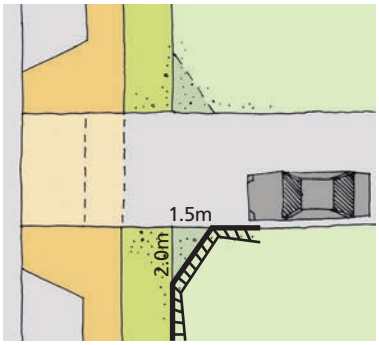
These rights apply to lawfully established residential fences that existed prior to 30 June 2012. An existing fence can be replaced with another fence, without the need for a resource consent, if it's the same as the old fence. To determine if you are eligible for Existing Use Rights contact the Duty Planner on 03 546 0357.

Other rules affecting fencing

Driveway Access (REr.40)

Avoid objects and vegetation over 0.9m in height.

Visibility splays referred to in rule REr.40.



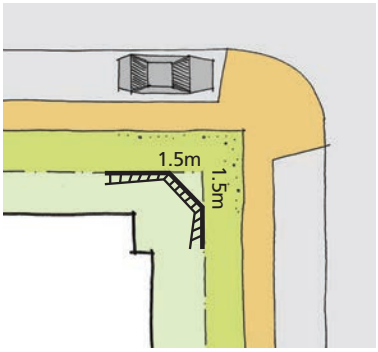
Where the fence is within 1.5m of any (yours or your neighbours) vehicle access points or on a corner site, a visibility splay with the dimensions shown must be provided.

Landscaping and letter boxes may be located within the splay provided they do not obstruct visibility to pedestrians. Generally this means avoiding vegetation capable of growing to a height of over 0.9m.

Corner Sites (REr.29)

Avoid vegetation over 1m in height and structures.

Visibility splay referred to in rule REr.29.



On corner sites where the two road frontages converge the fence, vegetation and any structures greater than 1.0m in height must be set back from the corner by 1.5m.

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If you need any further information please do not hesitate to contact the Nelson City Council's Duty Planner on 03 546 0357