



City of Eugene ❖ Eugene Police Department

777 Pearl Street, Room 107 • Eugene, Oregon 97401 • (541) 682-5111



Fences and Security Gates

Fencing

Fences and walls may make us feel safer, but each kind has trade-offs to consider:

- Solid walls and wood fences can block "natural surveillance" (i.e., your neighbor's line-of-sight), actually reducing safety. These fences may also require regular maintenance and repair, and be subject to spray painting and other vandalism.
- Steel mesh fences are less vulnerable to spray painting, but they do get cut by vandals. They tend to have an industrial look that may not fit in with the neighborhood image.
- Wrought iron fences are almost indestructible, don't provide enough of a surface to attract spray painting, and require little to no maintenance and repair over the years. They provide excellent natural surveillance. They are also the most expensive option.
- In commercial or industrial areas, you may find barbed wire or razor wire fences. Barbed and razor wire are not allowed adjacent to public ways. Within 5 feet of a sidewalk or public property the barbed portion must be angled in toward the private property at least 30 degrees from vertical. You can build fences over 6 feet in commercial zones, but must obtain a building permit prior to installation.
- Fencing heights are restricted by city ordinances to 2.5' in front of residences, and 6' along the sides.
- In some cases, living fences may better suit your purposes. Plants such as Barberry, Pyracantha, Blackberries, Hawthorne or Roses can provide an impenetrable barrier.

Security Gates

If you wish to erect security gates, there are two options that will allow emergency vehicles to still have access to your property:

- For manual entry, you can leave a key in a particular type of high security lockbox. These lockboxes are available from National Firefighter at (541) 485-3566. Only the fire department has keys to these lockboxes.
- For electronic entry, Overhead Door Company at (541) 686-8144 has the contract with the city to wire entries to automatically open when triggered by electronic gear in emergency vehicles.

For more information

Call (541) 682-8186 or e-mail the Eugene Police Crime Prevention Specialist at policeprevention@ci.eugene.or.us

Last update 111406