



# BUILDING BULLETIN

---

## Building Services

**Subject:** Fencing of Construction & Demolition Sites  
**Building Bulletin No:** BD.BB.19.16  
**Date Issued:** July 3, 2019  
**Date Revised:**  
**Reference:** Building By-law 2019-039, s. 18

---

### A. Purpose

The purpose of this Building Bulletin is to clarify the fencing requirements of construction & demolition sites.

### B. Background and Definitions

The Town of Collingwood Building By-law No. 2019-039 states that where a construction site may present a hazard to the public, the *owner* of the construction site **shall** ensure that the construction site is suitably fenced to prevent public access onto the construction site prior to the commencement of any construction or demolition or placement of any materials or equipment

#### Examples of Hazards

Examples of hazards include but are not limited to:

- Any excavation or depression deep enough to hold water or cause an injury in the case of a fall, including trenches and excavations for the installation or removal of foundations or site services.
- Where physical contact with products on the site, either physical or airborne are considered hazardous.

- Where a process or activity could generate flying debris.
- Where the use of equipment or machinery for demolition or construction could present a hazard to a person.
- Any activity is occurring for which the wearing of PPE is required by an OHS standard.
- Structures or debris piles poses a risk of collapse, settlement or movement, or contain hazardous materials; or
- Where overhead, craning, hoisting or lifting is taking place additional supervisory personnel will be required.

### **Exceptions**

There are certain circumstances where the construction fencing requirement may be exempted. The permit holder must obtain confirmation from the Building Official noted on the Building Permit prior to applying these exceptions which include:

1. Large lots where the neighboring properties are sufficiently far apart, and public access is less frequent site.
2. Site activities are contained within secured premises: renovations, alterations, partial demolition inside an existing building where the openings to the building are secure when the site is not attended.
3. Activity has progressed to a stage that no longer requires protection.
4. Existing fencing is in good order and already in place

## **C. General Interpretation and Requirements**

### **General Fence Requirements**

Every fence shall:

1. be erected at the perimeter of the site to fully enclose the site;
2. be built to deter entry by unauthorized persons or vehicles;
3. have no rails, other horizontal or diagonal bracing, attachments or pattern of openings on the outside that would facilitate climbing;
4. contain no opening more than 150 millimetres wide or less than 900 millimetres above the bottom of the fence except where required for access to and from the site;
5. at any access opening, be equipped with gates that shall:
  - a) contain wire mesh or similar material sufficient to provide visibility for traffic entering or exiting the site;
  - b) be built to specifications that provide performance and safety at least equivalent to the fence and

- c) deter entry by unauthorized persons;
6. be maintained,
  - a) in good repair with no gaps larger than 100 millimetres below the fencing;
  - b) free from health, fire and accident hazards;
  - c) so that any access opening is closed and locked or securely reinstalled when the site is unattended; and
  - d) be removed not later than thirty days after completion of the construction or demolition work.
7. The fence may be a combination of the fence types specified by the Chief Building Official or may be built of other materials if the fence can be shown to provide adequate protection
8. fencing must comply with the applicable Occupational Health and Safety Act provisions for “Public Way Protection” where applicable.

### **Fence Height**

1. When the site is located 3.0 metres or less from a public pathway or where the public congregates, the fence must be at least **1.8 metres** high measured from grade outside of the enclosure.
2. The fence height may be reduced to a minimum of **1.2 metres** high only if the activity involves a residential building of no more than *3 storeys* and is also located more than 3.0 metres from an adjacent public walkway.
3. Where erected on any other construction or demolition site, have a height not less than **1.8 metres** above the grade outside the enclosed area.

### **Fence Construction Standards**

There are several acceptable options for the fencing that the property owners or applicants may elect to construct, for example:

#### **Wood Fence**

- The outside face shall be smooth exterior grade plywood or wafer board 12.5 millimetres thick that is close-boarded,
- Securely nailed or screwed to 89 millimetre by 89 millimetre vertical posts spaced at 2.4 metre centres and embedded sufficiently deep into the ground to provide a rigid support,
- Securely nailed or screwed to 39 millimetre by 89 millimetre horizontal rails secured to the vertical posts at the top, bottom and intermediate locations at 600 millimetre centres.



### Plastic Mesh

- Fencing shall be fastened securely at 200 millimetre centres to steel T or 50 millimetre wide U posts, spaced at not more than 1.2 metre centres and embedded at least 600 millimetres into the ground, and
- The top and bottom of the plastic mesh secured horizontally by an 11 gauge lacing cable threaded through the mesh and looped and fastened to each post.



### Chain Link or Metal Fence

- The mesh shall have openings no larger than 50 millimetres and shall be fastened securely both to vertical steel posts, spaced at not more than 2.4 metre centres and embedded at least 600 millimetres into the ground,
- The top and bottom horizontal steel rails or 9 gauge steel wire.



## D. Reference Information

*Building Code Act*

## E. Attached

N/A

## F. Review Cycle

This building bulletin will be reviewed annually by the Chief Building Official.

Greg Miller, BSSO, CBCO, C.E.T.,  
Chief Building Official

Planning and Building Department  
Building Services Division  
[building@collingwood.ca](mailto:building@collingwood.ca)