

Appendix B: Guidance Concerning Fencing and Walls in Special Flood Hazard Areas

Fencing and walls located in the special flood hazard area require floodplain development permits, unless they are small enough to be considered *de minimis* development as defined by local ordinance.

Fence or Wall Type	Fencing and Walls Allowed?			
	Floodway Fringe (Riverine)	Regulatory Floodway (Riverine)	Shallow/ Sheetflow/ Ponding Zones	Coastal Velocity Zones
A	Yes			
B	Yes	Yes, with limited cross channel fencing	Yes	Yes
C	Design Review Required ⁱ			
D	Yes, if open at base to BFE	No ⁱⁱ	Yes, if open at base to BFE	Yes, if installed parallel to shore, otherwise Design Review required.
E	Yes, if open at base to BFE	No ⁱⁱ	Yes, if open at base to BFE	Yes, if installed parallel to shore, otherwise Design Review required.
F	Yes, if adequate openings at base to BFE	No ⁱⁱ	Yes, if adequate openings at base to BFE	Design Review required ⁱⁱⁱ
G	Yes, if adequate openings at base to BFE	No ⁱⁱ	Yes, if adequate openings at base to BFE	Design Review required ⁱⁱⁱ
H	Yes, if adequate openings at base to BFE	No ⁱⁱ	Yes, if adequate openings at base to BFE	No

Fence/Wall Types:

- A Open barb or barbless wire. Open means no more than one horizontal strand per foot of height
- B Open pipe or rail fencing (e.g. corrals). Open means rails occupy less than 10% of the fence area and posts are spaced no closer than 8 feet apart.
- C Collapsible fencing
- D Other wire, pipe, or rail fencing (e.g. field fence, chicken wire, etc.) which does not meet open requirements above.
- E Chain link fencing
- F Continuous wood fencing
- G Masonry walls
- H Retaining walls, bulkheads

ⁱ Ensure fence will collapse under anticipated base flood conditions. Debris impact must be considered. Calculations must be provided.

ⁱⁱ Unless shown, using FEMA-approved engineering/modeling standards, to cause no-rise in BFE.

ⁱⁱⁱ Fences and walls in V zone must be analyzed for their effects on flood conditions, including ramping effects on adjacent buildings and effects of debris during flood events (TB 5)