



# Information sheet

## Building Control Services

### **Fences - March 2011**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

There are regulations relating to certain fences. If you are planning to build a fence, you may need a Building Permit. Fences are required around pools and spas (see 'Fences for Swimming Pools and Spas').

#### **BUILDING PERMIT REQUIRED**

You will need to get a Building Permit if you plan to build a fence that is:

- A fence more than 2m in height
- A fence constructed out of masonry, concrete or the like and exceeds a height of 1.2m when it is to be located within 3m of a street alignment
- A fence constructed out of timber, metal or the like and exceeds a height of 1.5m when it is to be located within 3m of a street alignment
- Construction of a fence that is more than 1m high above the footpath when within 9m of a point of intersection of street alignments
- A fence having barbed wire or the like adjacent to a street alignment
- A fence forming part of a safety barrier for a swimming pool or a fence forming part of a children's service outdoor play space
- A chain wire fence surrounding a tennis court

Building surveyors assess these proposals to make sure they are safe and do not interfere with your neighbours' rights to daylight.

### **When is a Council Report and Consent Required?**

The Building Regulations 2006 place limits on front and side street fence heights.

The height limits are:

- 1.0m for any fence within 9m of the point of intersection of the front corner boundaries.(shown as vertical crosshatching on sketch)
- 1.5m for front fences
- 2.0m in height for side street fences.

Once these limits are exceeded a Council Report and Consent is required in addition to a Building Permit.



## **DESIGN ASSISTANCE**

For assistance on design, we recommend you read:

- Brick Institute standard designs
- Mitre 10 D.I.Y. Construction Manuals
- BlueScope Steel-Lysaght colorbond fencing

## **BOUNDARY FENCE DISPUTES**

If you have a dispute with your neighbour over a side or rear fence, it is recommended you contact any of the following:

- Dispute Settlement Centre of Victoria  
4/456 Lonsdale St Melbourne      Tel: 9603 8370      Free call: 1800 658 528  
[www.justice.vic.gov.au/disputeinfo](http://www.justice.vic.gov.au/disputeinfo)
- Your Solicitor
- [www.fencingonline.com.au](http://www.fencingonline.com.au)
- Free Legal Aid Tel: 9877 5777

Council is not involved in these disputes, as we have no jurisdiction to make anyone comply with your wishes

## **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

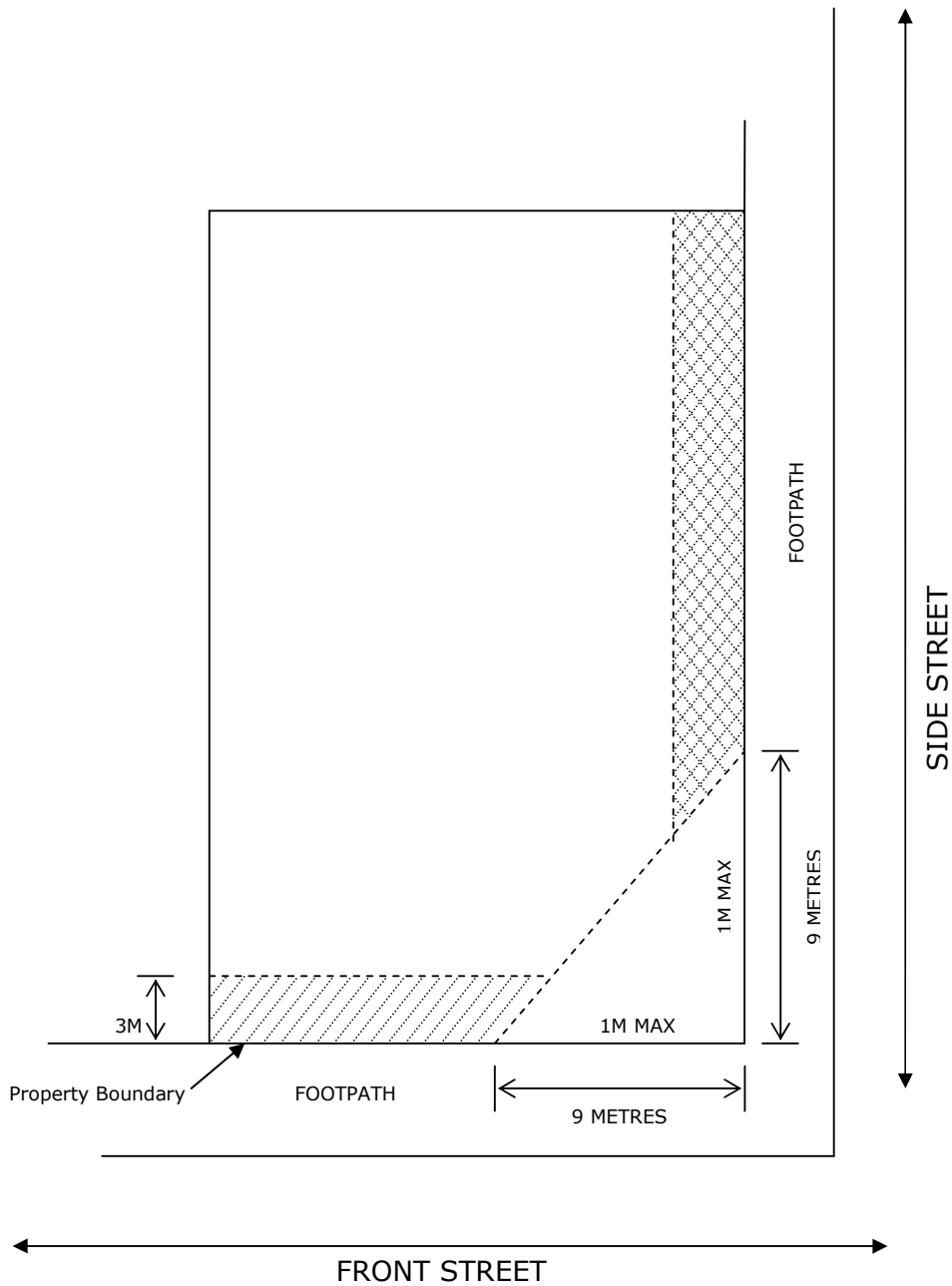
The information here is a guide only. Before undertaking any development, please discuss your intentions with Building and Development Compliance department on 9249 4000

If you need to make an application, your time and money can be saved if you are thoroughly prepared.

▼

# CORNER FENCES

## WHEN IS A BUILDING PERMIT REQUIRED



Construction of a fence that is more than 1m high, within 9m of the point intersection of street alignment requires a building permit.

Remaining fence on street alignment requires a permit for paling/colorbond fences greater than 1.5m and masonry fences greater than 1.2m.