

# Building or Replacing a Fence?

*Understanding Ashland's Wildfire Safety Ordinance regarding fence requirements*



When building a new fence, or replacing an old one, Ashland's Wildfire Safety Ordinance states that any fencing attached to a building or a deck shall be made of noncombustible materials within five feet of the connection to the structure.

Fire science indicates that the first 5 feet around structures should be free from all combustible material. In addition to fencing, this includes flammable vegetation and bark mulch. This increases the chances of a home's survival during a wildfire event.

## Ashland Municipal Code 18.4.4.060.B Fences and Walls: Design Standards

8. **Wildfire Lands Overlay.** Fencing attached to a building or deck within the Wildfire Lands Overlay shall be made of noncombustible materials within five feet of the connection to the structure.
  - a. A fence with wood framing and steel mesh or other noncombustible infill panels shall be considered to comply with this section.
  - b. A metal gate, a minimum of three feet in width, that is installed within a wood-framed fence immediately adjacent to a building or deck shall be considered to comply with this section.
  - c. Existing wood fences that are to be retrofitted to attach to a new building, addition, or deck, subject to the General Fuel Modification Area standards per subsection [18.3.10.100.B](#), shall be retrofitted so the fence ends with a noncombustible material like masonry or metal to keep fire from spreading to the building or deck.
  - d. Combustible fencing materials may be permitted within five feet of a building or deck when the Staff Advisor, in consultation with the Fire Code Official, has determined the portion of the structure adjoining the combustible material is constructed with ignition-resistant building materials sufficient to reduce the spread of fire from the combustible fencing materials.

Visit [www.ashland.or.us/fences](http://www.ashland.or.us/fences) for more information about Wildfire Safety Ordinance requirements for your project.

Permits are required prior to installing any permanent fence or wall to ensure compliance with City Standards. A building permit may be required for some fences and walls, pursuant to applicable building codes.

<https://ashland.municipal.codes/AMC/18.4.4.060>

**Contact the Fire Adapted Communities Coordinator at 541-552-2231 for specific guidance and recommendations.**