OTTAWA FENCES

Chain Link & Metal Fences

Coated chain link, ornamental aluminum and wrought-iron fences in Ottawa, including the chain-link coating rule

7 Expert Answers from Fencing IQ

ottawafences.ca/construction-brain

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Q1

Is plain galvanized chain link allowed in Ottawa?

Plain galvanized chain link, the bare silver-grey kind, is not allowed on residential property in Ottawa. The Fence By-law, as published on ottawa.ca, section 18, says that no chain link fence on residential property may be installed unless it is vinyl coated or powder coated. That rule applies to the full fence, not just the fabric.

Vinyl coating and powder coating both meet the section 18 requirement, and they come in a range of colours. The by-law's general upkeep rule (sections 11 and 12) requires that every fence be kept in good repair and protected by a weather-resistant finish, except for cedar, redwood and treated wood. Chain link is not in that exception. Ask the installer to confirm in writing that the finish they are quoting meets both section 18 and the upkeep requirements.

A few other things apply to any chain link fence on a residential lot. The finished side of the fence must face the public street and neighbouring properties (section 15). On a corner lot, the Fence By-law's visibility triangle (section 4) limits any fence to 75 cm within a triangle formed by measuring 3 m along the lot lines from the corner. Ottawa's zoning by-laws (2026-50, section 216, and 2008-250, section 57) add a second triangle: no solid obstruction over 0.75 m within 6 m of the corner along each street lot line. Because chain link can be seen through, zoning does not treat it as an obstruction in that larger triangle, but the Fence By-law's 3 m triangle still applies to it. On a corner lot, confirm the layout with the City.

Height limits are the same as for any other fence: no higher than 1 m in a front yard, and no higher than 213 cm (about 7 feet) in a side or rear yard, measured from the grade at the base of the fence on the higher side.

If you are replacing an existing galvanized fence, the by-law's definition of "erect" includes alter and replace, so the new fence must meet today's rules. If the existing fence was lawfully built before January 1, 2004, under an older municipality's by-law, it may continue in use and be maintained, but ask By-law Services before rebuilding or changing it.

When you get a quote for a coated chain link fence, ask the installer to spell out in writing what gauge of fabric and what gauge of frame posts are included, so you can compare quotes on the same specification rather than discovering the difference after the job is done.

Q2

How tall can a chain link dog run fence be in Orleans?

A chain link dog run in Orleans is a fence under the City of Ottawa Fence By-law No. 2003-462, so the same height limits apply as for any other residential fence. In a side or rear yard, the limit is 213 cm (about 7 feet). In a front yard, the limit is 1 m.

Where the dog run sits on the lot matters. If it is entirely in the side or rear yard, 213 cm is the ceiling. If any part of it falls within the front yard, that portion is limited to 1 m. The by-law measures height from the grade at the base of the fence. Where the ground is higher on one side, height is measured from the higher grade. A berm does not raise the limit, because the by-law excludes artificial embankments from the grade calculation. If the run is built on a retaining wall, a raised patio or a deck, confirm with the City of Ottawa how height is measured in that situation, as we found no rule covering it.

The by-law also requires that any chain link fence on residential property be vinyl coated or powder coated. An uncoated galvanized chain link run does not meet that requirement. Ask the installer to specify the coating type and colour in the written quote.

A few other things to check before the run is built. If the lot is a corner lot, the Fence By-law limits any fence to 75 cm within a triangle formed by measuring 3 m along each lot line from the corner. Ottawa's Zoning By-laws (2008-250 and 2026-50) add a second triangle on corner lots: solid obstructions over 0.75 m are not permitted within 6 m along each street lot line from the corner. A see-through chain link fence is not treated as a solid obstruction under the zoning rule, but it still must be vinyl or powder coated. On a corner lot, confirm the layout with the City of Ottawa before the posts go in.

If the dog run is a freestanding enclosure with a gate, the gate in a side or rear yard may be up to 30 cm taller than the fence, under the Fence By-law. That allowance does not apply in a front yard.

A dog run does not enclose a pool, so no building permit is required for the fence itself. If the run ever encloses a hot tub, that changes the picture; ottawapoolinstallation.ca covers pool enclosures.

The Act requires a locate request before any post holes are dug; Ontario Dig Authority asks for it at least 5 business days ahead. Ask the installer who will submit the request and ask about any private lines on your property.

After the job is done, keep the written contract, the itemized quote, the locate confirmation, and dated photos showing where the fence stands relative to the property lines.

Q3

Chain link dog run against my Orleans fence, any rules?

A chain link dog run built against an existing fence in Orleans falls under the City of Ottawa Fence By-law No. 2003-462, and there are a few rules worth knowing before you buy panels or dig post holes.

The dog run is a freestanding structure erected at grade to restrict access, so it meets the by-law's definition of a fence. That means the chain link panels must be vinyl or powder coated, under section 18, which applies to all residential chain link in Ottawa. Bare galvanized chain link is not permitted. The run also has to be kept stable, vertical and in good repair under sections 11 and 12.

On height: if the run sits in a side or rear yard, the panels can reach up to 213 cm (about 7 feet). A front-yard run is capped at 1 m. Height is measured from the grade at the base of the fence, and where the ground is higher on one side, from the higher side. A berm or raised bed next to the run does not raise the limit.

One detail that comes up with dog runs specifically: the run shares a wall with your existing fence. The by-law's finished-side rule (section 15) says the finished side must face the street and neighbouring properties. Ask the installer how the panels attach to the existing fence and which face is visible to the neighbour, so the installation meets that requirement.

If the run is in a corner lot's 3 m triangle, no part of it can exceed 75 cm under the Fence By-law. Zoning By-laws 2026-50 and 2008-250 add a separate 6 m sight triangle on corner lots where solid obstructions are limited to 0.75 m, though a see-through chain link fence is not counted as an obstruction under those zoning rules. If your lot is on a corner, confirm the layout with the City of Ottawa before setting posts.

Because post holes break ground, the Underground Infrastructure Notification System Act, 2012 requires a locate request before any digging. Ontario Dig Authority asks for the request at least 5 business days ahead. Ask about any private lines on your property as well; we found no statement either way on whether those are marked.

No building permit is needed for a dog run that does not enclose a pool. If it does enclose a pool or hot tub, the Pool Enclosure By-law No. 2013-39 applies instead, and ottawapoolinstallation.ca covers that.

Published 2025-26 Ontario installer pricing for coated chain link runs roughly $15 to $50 per linear foot installed. A gate is priced separately, around $500 to $1,500 for a walk gate. The spread is wide because coating, post spacing, mesh gauge and ground conditions all affect the quote.

When you get a written quote, ask the installer to break out the gate and any concrete post-setting as separate line items, so you can see exactly where the total lands before you sign.

Q4

Black vinyl chain link or green for a Kanata yard?

Published Ontario installer pricing puts coated chain link at roughly $15 to $50 per linear foot installed, with the coating adding a few dollars a foot; we found too few published prices to say whether black and green coatings differ, so ask each installer to quote both colours if you are undecided.

What moves the price within that spread is the height of the run, the total length, the number and size of gates, whether an old fence needs to come out (roughly $5 to $15 per linear foot, more if posts are set in concrete), and what the ground is like on your lot. Ask each installer to quote gates as a separate line: a walk gate runs about $500 to $1,500 and a driveway gate about $800 to $2,200 on top of the fence price.

A few rules from the City of Ottawa Fence By-law (No. 2003-462) apply here. Chain link on residential property must be vinyl or powder coated, so bare galvanised chain link is not permitted. The finished side of the fence must face the public street and neighbouring properties.

No building permit is needed for a chain link fence that does not enclose a pool. If it does enclose a pool, the Pool Enclosure By-law (No. 2013-39) applies and ottawapoolinstallation.ca covers that.

When you have two written quotes in front of you, set them side by side and check that each one spells out the same height and coating colour, the same linear footage, the post method and how deep the holes go, gates as their own priced item, and removal and disposal of anything coming out, so you are comparing the same job twice.

Q5

Iron fence in Kanata: what upkeep does the by-law require?

For an iron fence in Kanata, the upkeep rules are in the City of Ottawa Fence By-law, No. 2003-462, and they cover both the fence's condition and its surface protection.

What the by-law requires

Sections 11 and 12 say a fence must be stable and vertical, made of good-quality materials suitable for the purpose, kept in good repair, safe, and free from accident hazards. Those are ongoing obligations, not just conditions at installation. An iron fence that has shifted out of plumb, has broken pickets or has loose rail connections is worth looking at against those requirements.

Section 12 adds a surface-protection rule. Iron is not one of the materials the by-law excepts from coating: cedar, redwood and treated wood are the three exceptions. Every other fence, including iron and ornamental aluminum, must be protected by paint, preservatives, or another weather-resistant material. For an iron fence in Kanata, that means the coating must be maintained. Where the finish has worn through, chipped, or rusted, the by-law expects it to be restored, not left bare.

Section 17 covers graffiti: if the surface is marked, the owner must remove the graffiti or refinish the affected area.

Those three obligations, structural soundness, surface protection, and graffiti removal, are what the by-law asks of you on an ongoing basis. Municipal Law Enforcement Officers enforce the by-law, and penalties fall under the Provincial Offences Act.

A few other rules are worth keeping in mind for an iron fence specifically. The finished side must face the public street and neighbouring properties, as required by section 15.

If the fence was built before January 1, 2004, under an older municipal by-law, section 23 allows it to continue and be maintained. Because the by-law defines "erect" to include altering a fence, ask By-law Services before making changes to one that exceeds today's limits, to confirm what is permitted.

If you are hiring someone to restore the coating or make structural repairs, ask them to put the scope of work, the materials they will use, and any warranty in writing before starting. Keep the written contract, the itemized quote and photos showing where the fence sits on your property.

Q6

What should an ornamental aluminum fence quote in Ottawa include?

Ornamental aluminum prices vary too widely across styles, heights and panel designs for a single published range, so the most useful thing a quote can do is break every cost into its own line. Ask each installer to itemize rather than give you one lump sum.

A complete ornamental aluminum fence quote should cover:

- The panel style, height and colour, with the finished side specified (the City of Ottawa Fence By-law requires the finished side to face the street and neighbouring properties).
- The linear footage of fence, measured on site.
- The number, size and style of gates as separate line items, each with its own hardware listed. A pedestrian gate runs about $500 to $1,500 installed; a driveway gate about $800 to $2,200, based on published 2025-26 Ontario

installer pricing.

- Post method and spacing, including whether posts are set in concrete, and what happens if the crew hits rock or buried debris.
- Removal and disposal of any existing fence, priced per linear foot as its own line. Published installer pages say posts set in concrete cost more to pull, so ask for that in writing.
- A written warranty on materials and workmanship, with the warranty period and what it covers stated plainly.

The Fence By-law, as published on ottawa.ca, requires every fence other than cedar, redwood or treated wood to be protected by paint, preservatives or another weather-resistant material, so ask the installer to name the finish in the quote and what the maker says about care.
No building permit is needed for a residential aluminum fence that does not enclose a pool.

The form on this page forwards your project details to fence installers listed in the Ottawa Construction Network directory.

Before signing, ask the installer to show you exactly how the gates and any posts set in concrete are priced, line by line.

Q7

Will a chain link fence hold a large dog in Barrhaven?

Whether a chain link fence will contain a large dog depends on height, gauge, mesh size, and how the bottom of the fence is finished, and those are questions to put directly to a fence installer who can look at your yard and your dog.

On height, the City of Ottawa Fence By-law, as published on ottawa.ca, allows up to 213 cm (about 7 feet) in a side or rear yard, and up to 1 m in a front yard. The by-law also requires that any chain link fence on residential property be vinyl or powder coated, so plain galvanized chain link is not allowed.

A few things that belong in the conversation with your installer:

- Height: what height does the quote assume, and is it enough for the breed?
- Gauge and mesh: ask what wire gauge and mesh size the quote specifies, and why for your dog.
- Bottom of the fence: if your dog digs, ask how the installer proposes to finish the bottom edge and whether that is in the price.
- Gates: a gate in a side or rear yard may be up to 30 cm taller than the fence under the Fence By-law, and the quote should list the gate as its own line item, including the latch style.
- Posts: installers commonly set posts below frost; ask how deep the quote assumes and how the holes are filled.

A fence contractor cannot certify the line.
Published Ontario installer pricing for coated chain link runs roughly $15 to $50 per linear foot installed, a wide spread, so compare quotes on the same height, gauge and coating. Gates are priced separately, with a pedestrian gate running about $500 to $1,500. These are published 2025–26 prices, not a quote.

The most useful person to speak with first is a fence installer who can see the yard, the grade, and the space between the fence and any structures, because the details that matter for a large dog, such as bottom security and post spacing, are things that show up in person before they show up in a quote.

Disclaimer: This guide is provided for informational purposes only by Ottawa Fences. It does not constitute professional advice. Always consult qualified contractors and your local building authority (the City of Ottawa) before starting any fence project. Fences in Ottawa must meet the City's Fence By-law, and a free locate is required before digging any post hole. Information is current as of November 15, 2026 and may change. Visit **ottawafences.ca** for the latest answers.