OTTAWA FENCES

Gates

Walk gates and driveway gates: the side and rear-yard gate allowance, archways, the driveway triangle and gate quotes

4 Expert Answers from Fencing IQ

ottawafences.ca/construction-brain

Table of Contents

1. Can I put a gate across my driveway in Kanata?
2. What is the gate height allowance in a Barrhaven side yard?
3. Replacing a rotten wood gate in Gloucester?
4. Wood or metal frame for a wide Orleans gate?

Q1

Can I put a gate across my driveway in Kanata?

Yes, you can put a gate across your driveway in Kanata, but the height and placement rules depend on where the gate sits relative to the street.

The City of Ottawa Fence By-law, as published on ottawa.ca, sets the height limit for a fence in a front yard at 1 m. A gate is part of the fence, so if your driveway gate sits in the front yard, meaning between the street and the nearest point of your house, it must stay within that 1 m limit. The 30 cm gate allowance that lets a gate exceed the fence height by up to 30 cm applies in side and rear yards only. A front-yard driveway gate does not get that extra 30 cm.

If the gate is set back far enough to be in a side yard rather than the front yard, the fence height limit rises to 213 cm (about 7 feet), and the gate may then reach up to 30 cm above that, with an archway forming part of the entrance allowed up to 250 cm.

There is also a visibility triangle to keep in mind on every lot, regardless of whether it is a corner. The Fence By-law says no fence or gate may exceed 75 cm within the triangle formed by measuring 2 m along the lot line and 2 m along the driveway from where the driveway meets the lot line at the street.

A few things to confirm before work starts:

- Where exactly your front lot line sits. The City's Landscaping Education Guide notes the road allowance can be wider than it looks, and geoOttawa shows approximate property lines. A gate must not be on City property.
- Whether your property is on a corner lot, which adds a second triangle under the Fence By-law (75 cm within 3 m of the corner) and a zoning sight triangle under Zoning By-law 2008-250, section 57 (solid obstructions over 0.75 m within 6 m of the corner). On a corner lot, confirm the layout with the City.

Published 2025-26 Ontario installer pricing puts a driveway gate at roughly $800 to $2,200, priced on top of the fence run itself. Ask for the gate width, material and posts to be listed in the quote.
When you get a written quote, ask the installer to show the gate, its posts and all hardware as a separate line item, so you can see exactly what the gate portion costs before you agree to anything.

Q2

What is the gate height allowance in a Barrhaven side yard?

In a Barrhaven side yard, the Fence By-law (No. 2003-462), as published on ottawa.ca, sets the fence limit at 213 cm (about 7 feet). A gate in that side yard may exceed that limit by up to 30 cm.

That 30 cm allowance applies in side and rear yards only. The by-law does not extend it to a front yard gate, so if your gate sits at or near the front of the lot, confirm with the City of Ottawa which yard it falls in before ordering.

A few other details from the same by-law that affect a gate in this location:

- An archway forming part of the entrance in a side or rear yard may reach 250 cm, which is a separate allowance from the gate itself.
- Decorative caps on the structural posts may exceed the 213 cm fence limit by up to 15 cm.
- The finished side of the gate must face the neighbouring property and any public street.
- Height is measured from the grade at the base of the fence. Where the ground is higher on one side, measurement starts from the higher grade. A berm or raised fill does not raise the permitted height.

No building permit is required for a residential gate that does not enclose a pool. If the gate is part of a pool enclosure, the Pool Enclosure By-law (No. 2013-39) applies instead, and that work needs a permit; ottawapoolinstallation.ca covers that.
Before you sign a quote, ask the installer to confirm in writing the exact height they are building to, measured from grade, and where on the lot the gate will sit.

Q3

Replacing a rotten wood gate in Gloucester?

A replacement walk gate in a side or rear yard runs about $500 to $1,500 for a pedestrian gate, installed, based on published 2025–26 Ontario installer pricing. If the posts are set in concrete and need to be pulled and reset, that adds to the cost; ask the installer to quote post work as a separate line.

The City of Ottawa Fence By-law, as published on ottawa.ca, limits a fence in a side or rear yard to 213 cm (about 7 feet), and a gate there may exceed that limit by up to 30 cm. A gate in a front yard does not get that 30 cm allowance; the front yard limit is 1 m.

If new gate posts go in, the Underground Infrastructure Notification System Act, 2012 requires a locate request before any digging, including a single post hole; it is free, and Ontario Dig Authority asks for it at least 5 business days ahead. Ontario Dig Authority does not mark lines itself; each utility sends its own locator. Ask the installer who will submit the request, and ask about any private lines on your property, such as a line running to a garage or

shed, because we found no statement either way on whether those are marked.

On the quote itself, ask the installer to break out these items in writing: the gate size and style, the number of posts and how they are set, removal and disposal of the old gate and any concrete, and whether the existing fence posts are sound enough to hang a new gate from. Under the Consumer Protection Act, 2002, if the agreement is made somewhere other than the installer's place of business, it must be in writing and you have 10 days to cancel after receiving that written copy. If the quote includes an estimate, the final charge cannot exceed it by more than 10 per cent.

The Fence By-law, as published on ottawa.ca, says the finished side of a gate must face the public street and neighbouring properties. Cedar, redwood and treated wood are excepted from the requirement to protect the surface with paint or preservatives; any other wood must be protected.

Before you sign, ask the installer to confirm in writing whether the existing posts can stay or need replacing, so you know whether the job is a gate swap or includes new posts.

Q4

Wood or metal frame for a wide Orleans gate?

A wide driveway gate in Orleans can have a wood frame or a metal frame, and the choice is one for the installer to explain against your opening, your posts and the fence it has to match. Published 2025–26 Ontario installer pricing puts a driveway gate at about $800 to $2,200 installed, priced on top of the fence itself.

Either frame can be faced with wood boards, vinyl or coated chain link so the gate matches the fence. Ask the installer to name the frame material, the frame dimensions, the hinge type and how the hinges attach to the posts, and to say how the gate posts are set and how deep the holes go. Installers commonly set posts below frost; ask yours how deep the quote assumes.

A few rules from the City of Ottawa Fence By-law, as published on ottawa.ca, apply here. That allowance does not apply in a front yard. If the gate opening sits near where your driveway meets the street, the Fence By-law requires that nothing over 75 cm stand within a triangle measured 2 m along the lot line and 2 m along the driveway edge. On a corner lot, a second triangle applies: nothing over 75 cm within 3 m of the corner along each lot line, and Ottawa's Zoning By-laws (2008-250 and 2026-50) add a 6 m sight triangle where solid obstructions must stay under 0.75 m. If your gate is near either triangle, confirm the layout with the City before the installer sets posts.

A fair written quote for a wide gate should break out the gate as its own line, name the frame material and hinge type, state how the posts are set and how deep the holes go, and include any removal of an existing gate or post. Under the Consumer Protection Act, 2002, a supplier cannot charge more than 10 per cent above a written estimate, and you have 10 days to cancel a contract signed somewhere other than the supplier's place of business.

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

Before you commit, ask the installer to price the gate frame, the hardware and the gate posts as separate lines, so two quotes for the same opening can be compared item by item.

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.