OTTAWA FENCES

# Replacement & Removal

Taking down an old fence, disposal, and building the new one to today's rules and on your side of the line

4 Expert Answers from Fencing IQ

ottawafences.ca/construction-brain

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Q1

## Is now a good time to replace my fence in Nepean?

We found too few published prices to say how the season affects a fence quote, so the useful question is what each installer you speak with says about your timing. Ask whether the season or the ground conditions change their schedule or their price, and get that in writing with the quote.

On the cost side, published 2025-26 Ontario installer pricing for a replacement fence runs roughly $30 to $65 per linear foot for pressure-treated wood, $45 to $85 for cedar, $45 to $90 for vinyl, and $15 to $50 for coated chain link. Removing and disposing of the old fence adds roughly $5 to $15 per linear foot, and posts set in concrete cost more to pull. Gates are priced separately: a walk gate is roughly $500 to $1,500 and a driveway gate roughly $800 to $2,200. What moves the total for your job is the length of the run, the material and style, the number and size of gates, whether the old posts are in concrete, and the condition of the ground.

Under the City of Ottawa Fence By-law No. 2003-462, a replacement fence in a side or rear yard can be up to 213 cm (about 7 feet) tall, and a front yard fence is limited to 1 m. The by-law also requires that the finished side face the street and neighbouring properties, and that any residential chain link be vinyl or powder coated. No building permit is needed for a fence that does not enclose a pool.

Before anyone digs a post hole, the Underground Infrastructure Notification System Act, 2012 requires a locate request, whether your installer digs or you do; Ontario Dig Authority says locates are needed for any project that breaks ground, no matter the depth, and asks for the request at least 5 business days before the dig. Also ask about any private lines on your property, such as a line running to a garage or shed; we found no statement either way on whether those will be marked.

Before the work starts, check the approximate property line on geoOttawa and review your title documents for any easements along the fence line; if anything is unclear, an Ontario Land Surveyor can confirm the exact boundary. Check whether any trees are close to the planned post locations, since the City's guide says you cannot dig within a tree's critical root zone without Forestry Services' approval.

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Q2

## Replace chain link with vinyl along a Gloucester lane?

Replacing coated chain link with vinyl along a Gloucester lane runs about $45 to $90 per linear foot installed, based on published 2025–26 Ontario installer pricing. That range covers materials and labour; gates, removal of the old fence and any concrete post extraction are priced separately.

A few things affect where your quote lands within that range. Vinyl comes in several styles, from basic privacy panels to more detailed picket or lattice-top designs, and the style moves the price. Published installer pages say posts set in concrete cost more to pull, so the number of those along the run matters. Any gates are quoted as their own line item: a walk gate runs about $500 to $1,500 and a driveway gate about $800 to $2,200, on top of the fence price.

The City of Ottawa Fence By-law (No. 2003-462) has a few rules that apply here. The finished side of the fence must face the lane and any neighbouring properties (section 15). Height in a rear or side yard is capped at 213 cm (about 7 feet), measured from the grade at the base of the fence on the higher side, not from a berm or raised fill.

Because new posts mean digging, the Underground Infrastructure Notification System Act, 2012 requires a locate request before any ground is broken. Ontario Dig Authority asks for the request at least 5 business days before the dig. Ontario Dig Authority does not mark lines itself; each utility sends its own locator. Ask the installer who will submit the locate request, and ask about any private lines running to a garage or shed on the property.

No building permit is needed for this fence, since it does not enclose a pool. Get the quote in writing with the style, height, post method, removal and disposal, and any gate work listed as separate line items. The City's guide says to check property lines before installing, so the fence lands on your property.

Before anything else, find out where the lane's road allowance ends and your property begins: the City's guide notes the right of way can be wider than you think, geoOttawa shows approximate lines, and an Ontario Land Surveyor can mark the exact one.

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Q3

## Who removes a fence the City says is on its land in Ottawa?

The City of Ottawa Fence By-law (No. 2003-462, s.14) says no fence may be placed on City property, including any public highway or road allowance, and s.25 says no one may erect, own or maintain a fence that does not comply. What the City does about a particular fence is a question for By-law Services.

In one Ottawa case reported in 2024, the City removed a fence it said was on its road allowance and billed the owners for the cost of removal. That is one reported case, not a rule about what happens every time.

The City's guide says the road allowance can be wider than you think. geoOttawa shows approximate property lines, but those lines are not survey-accurate. If you are in a dispute about whether a fence is on City land or your land, an Ontario Land Surveyor, under the Surveyors Act and the Association of Ontario Land Surveyors, is the only person who can certify the boundary. A fence installer cannot do that.

If you are replacing a fence that may be close to the road allowance, ask the installer to confirm where they plan to set the posts relative to your property line, and consider getting a survey pin located before any work starts. Check your deed or title documents for easements as well, and do not block one.

Before you agree to any fence work near a street, ask the installer in writing exactly where the fence line will sit relative to your surveyed property boundary.

Q4

## Replacing chain link with wood in Barrhaven, any rules?

Replacing chain link with wood in Barrhaven follows the City of Ottawa Fence By-law No. 2003-462, and the main rules are the same as for any new fence: no higher than 1 m in the front yard, and no higher than 213 cm (about 7 feet) in a side or rear yard. No building permit is needed for a residential fence that does not enclose a pool.

The by-law adds a few rules specific to the swap you are making. For the new wood fence, unless you choose cedar, redwood or treated wood, the by-law requires the fence to be protected by paint, preservatives or another weather-resistant material. The finished side of the new fence, meaning the side with the clean face rather than the structural rails and posts, must face the street and your neighbours' properties.

If the chain link sits on or near the property line, confirm the line before the new posts go in. geoOttawa shows approximate lines; for a confirmed boundary, only an Ontario Land Surveyor can survey it.

For the quote, ask the installer to break out the removal of the old chain link and posts separately, because posts set in concrete cost more to pull. Ask what wood species and treatment the quote assumes, how post holes will be set, and what the finished-side orientation will be along each run.

Under the Underground Infrastructure Notification System Act, 2012, whoever digs the post holes is the excavator and must make a locate request before digging; it is free, and Ontario Dig Authority asks for it at least 5 business days ahead. Ask the installer whether they submit the request or whether you do, and ask about any private lines on your property, such as a line running to a shed or garage, because we found no statement either way on whether those are marked.

Before the new posts go in, pull up geoOttawa to check the approximate property line, review your title documents for any easements along the fence run, and check whether any trees near the line fall within the City's protected root zone under the Tree Protection By-law.

**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.