OTTAWA FENCES

Vinyl & Composite Fences

Vinyl (PVC) and composite privacy and picket fences in Ottawa: rules, choices and what to ask

4 Expert Answers from Fencing IQ

ottawafences.ca/construction-brain

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Q1

Vinyl fence installer in Orleans: questions to ask?

Hiring a vinyl fence installer in Orleans comes down to getting the right information in writing before anyone breaks ground. Here are the questions worth asking before you sign.

What to ask a vinyl fence installer in Orleans

About the quote itself: ask for an itemised written quote that separates materials, labour, gate supply and installation, removal and disposal of any existing fence, and any extra charge for posts set in concrete. Published 2025-26 Ontario installer pricing puts vinyl at about $45 to $90 per linear foot installed, with premium styles running higher. A pedestrian gate adds roughly $500 to $1,500 on top of the fence line, and a driveway gate roughly $800 to $2,200. Ask what style and height the quote assumes, because both move the price.

About heights and placement: the City of Ottawa Fence By-law No. 2003-462 sets the limit at 1 m in your front yard and 213 cm (about 7 feet) in a side or rear yard. In a side or rear yard, a gate can be up to 30 cm taller than the fence, and decorative post caps can exceed the limit by up to 15 cm. Ask the installer to confirm the proposed height against those limits and to confirm which yard each section falls in.

About the fence itself: the Fence By-law requires that the finished side face the street and neighbouring properties. Vinyl is not one of the three materials (cedar, redwood, treated wood) the by-law excepts from its coating rule, so ask what the maker says about finish and care. Ask the installer to specify the product, the post method, and what the written warranty covers, and get any warranty promise in the quote document rather than as a verbal assurance.

About payment terms: under the Consumer Protection Act, 2002, if the agreement is signed somewhere other than the installer's place of business, you have 10 days to cancel after receiving the written copy. The Construction Act requires you to hold back 10 per cent of the price as work is supplied; ask a lawyer about when it is safe to release that amount on a larger job.

The single most useful question before you sign: ask the installer to show you, line by line, what changes if the run is longer or shorter than quoted, so you know exactly what you are committing to.

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

Q2

Does vinyl fencing crack in Ottawa winters?

Vinyl fencing is sold and installed in Ottawa, and published installer pricing puts it at about $45 to $90 per linear foot installed, with premium styles above that range. Whether a particular vinyl product holds up through freeze-thaw cycles is a question about the product itself, not something the Fence By-law or any Ottawa rule addresses, and we found no government or association data on how vinyl performs in Ottawa winters specifically.

What you can do is ask the installer to specify, in writing, the product they plan to use: the wall thickness of the rails and pickets, whether the posts are reinforced with a steel or aluminum insert, and what the manufacturer's written warranty covers for cracking, fading or brittleness. Those details vary between product lines, and the installer is the right person to explain what they are quoting. Ask them to put the product specification on the quote itself, not just describe it verbally.

The City of Ottawa Fence By-law, as published on ottawa.ca, does require that a fence be kept in good repair, safe and free from accident hazards, and protected by paint, preservatives or another weather-resistant material. Vinyl is not cedar, redwood or treated wood, so it falls under the general protection requirement. Ask the installer what the maker says about the finish and care, in writing.

The one question worth putting to each installer before you choose: which vinyl product, by name and wall thickness, the quote is for, and what its maker's written warranty says about cracking.

Q3

Composite or cedar for a modern fence in Orleans?

Both composite and cedar can work well for a modern fence in Orleans. Published 2025-26 Ontario installer pricing puts cedar at about $45 to $85 per linear foot installed, and composite at about $55 to $95 or more per linear foot installed, so the two published ranges overlap, with composite's starting higher.

What moves the price around for either material includes the height of the fence, the total length of the run, the number and size of gates, whether an old fence needs to come out first, and how the posts are set. Gates are priced separately: a walk gate runs roughly $500 to $1,500 and a driveway gate roughly $800 to $2,200. Ask each installer to break those out as their own line in the quote so you can compare clearly.

A few rules from the City of Ottawa Fence By-law (No. 2003-462) apply to either material. A berm does not raise that limit. The finished side of the fence must face the street and your neighbours. Under the by-law, every fence material except cedar, redwood and treated wood must be protected by paint, preservatives or another weather-resistant material. Cedar is excepted from that rule; composite is not, so ask the installer what the manufacturer

specifies for the product they plan to use and get that in writing.

No building permit is needed for a residential fence in Orleans that does not enclose a pool.

If you are unsure, talk to a surveyor before the posts go in. The request form on this site reaches fence installers listed in the Ottawa Construction Network directory.

Before committing to either material, ask the installer to show you the specific product they plan to use and explain in writing how it meets the by-law's coating or maintenance requirement for that material.

Q4

Composite privacy screen beside a Nepean patio, same rules as a fence?

A freestanding composite privacy screen beside a patio is a fence under the City of Ottawa Fence By-law No. 2003-462, so yes, the same rules apply. The by-law defines a fence as any freestanding structure, wall or barrier other than a building, erected at grade to mark a boundary, restrict access, or provide security or protection, and a privacy screen fits that description exactly.

Height and placement

In a side or rear yard, the limit is 213 cm (about 7 feet); any part of the screen in the front yard is limited to 1 m. Height is measured from the grade at the base of the screen, using the higher grade where the ground differs on each side. We found no rule in the by-law for a screen built on a raised patio, a deck or a retaining wall, so confirm how height is measured with the City of Ottawa before building.

The by-law requires the finished side of the screen to face the street and neighbouring properties. The by-law excepts only cedar, redwood and treated wood from its coating rule; every other fence, composite included, must be protected by paint, preservatives or another weather-resistant material, so ask the installer what the maker says about finish and care, in writing. No building permit is needed for a fence that does not enclose a pool.

Published 2025-26 Ontario installer prices for composite fencing run about $55 to $95 or more per linear foot installed. Gates are priced separately: a pedestrian gate is roughly $500 to $1,500. What shows up in a quote for a patio privacy screen includes the material and panel style, the height and length of the run, the number of posts and how they are set, any gate, and removal of an existing structure if there is one.

Ask the installer to confirm in writing exactly how they will measure height from grade at your specific patio, so there is no disagreement with the by-law after the screen is up.

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.