OTTAWA FENCES

Corner Lots & Driveways

The Fence By-law's 3 m corner and 2 m driveway triangles, the zoning 6 m corner sight triangle, and see-through fences

4 Expert Answers from Fencing IQ

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Table of Contents

1. Corner fence in Kanata blocked by the triangle rule, options?
2. Where does the 3 m corner triangle start on a Kanata lot?
3. My Nepean corner fence was built before the rules, now what?
4. Corner triangle rules for a fence in Riverside South?

Q1

Corner fence in Kanata blocked by the triangle rule, options?

On a Kanata corner lot, two separate rules limit what you can put near the corner, and understanding both opens up a few practical paths forward.

The Fence By-law (No. 2003-462) says no fence over 75 cm within a triangle formed by measuring 3 m along each lot line from the corner. That applies to any fence, solid or open. Separately, Ottawa's Zoning By-law (2008-250, s.57, and Zoning By-law 2026-50, s.216) says no solid obstruction over 0.75 m within a triangle measured 6 m along each street lot line from the corner. Zoning counts buildings, structures and vegetation as obstructions, but says a chain link fence or other similar feature that can be seen through is not an obstruction.

That distinction gives you a few options to consider:

- Inside the 3 m Fence By-law triangle, nothing over 75 cm is permitted, full stop, regardless of material.
- The two triangles are separate rules with separate measurements; where your fence line falls relative to each is something to confirm with the City before building.
- A hedge is not a fence under the Fence By-law, but zoning's 6 m triangle counts vegetation as an obstruction over 0.75 m, so a tall hedge near the corner is a question for the City too.

On the see-through option: the Fence By-law (s.18) requires that any chain link fence on residential property be vinyl or powder coated. Ask the City to confirm how a see-through fence on your specific lot sits relative to both triangles before committing to a design.
Published 2025-26 Ontario installer prices for coated chain link run roughly $15 to $50 per linear foot installed, and ornamental aluminum varies too widely for a reliable range. Get the full fence layout drawn out in the quote, with each segment's height and distance from the corner marked, so you can check it against both triangles yourself.

Before you sign a contract, ask the installer to show you on a sketch exactly where each fence segment falls relative to both the Fence By-law's 3 m triangle and zoning's 6 m triangle, and what height they are quoting for each segment.

Q2

Where does the 3 m corner triangle start on a Kanata lot?

The Fence By-law, as published on ottawa.ca, describes the corner triangle as formed by measuring 3 m along the lot lines from the intersection of the two streets, or of two parts of the same street meeting at an angle of not more

than 135 degrees. Inside that triangle, no fence may be higher than 75 cm.

There is also a second rule to keep in mind on a corner lot, and it comes from a different source. Ottawa's Zoning By-laws (2008-250, section 57, and 2026-50, section 216) add a larger sight triangle: no solid obstruction higher than 0.75 m within a triangle measured 6 m along each street lot line from the corner. A see-through fence, such as a vinyl or powder-coated chain link fence, is not considered an obstruction under the zoning rule, so it is not subject to that 6 m limit in the same way. A solid wood or vinyl privacy fence is. These are two separate rules from two separate sources, each with its own measurement. On a corner lot, confirm the full layout with the City before placing any fence near the street corner.

One more triangle applies to every lot in Kanata, corner or not. Where your driveway meets the lot line at the street, the Fence By-law requires a clear triangle formed by measuring 2 m along the lot line and 2 m along the driveway edge. No fence over 75 cm is permitted inside that triangle either.

Q3

My Nepean corner fence was built before the rules, now what?

Your fence may be allowed to stay as it is, but the answer depends on exactly when it was built and what you do with it next.

The City of Ottawa Fence By-law No. 2003-462 came into effect on January 1, 2004. Section 23 says a fence lawfully built under an old municipality's fence by-law before that date may continue in use and be maintained. So if your fence was built before January 1, 2004, and it met the rules that applied in Nepean at the time, it can stay and be kept up under that protection. The key word in the by-law is "erect," and the by-law defines erecting to include altering, constructing, placing and relocating. Because of that, if you rebuild the fence, replace a significant portion, or change it in a way that could be read as altering it, By-law Services may treat the result as a new fence that must meet today's rules. Ask By-law Services directly before you do anything beyond routine maintenance.

Today's rules for a corner lot in Nepean are worth knowing, because if the fence ever does need to be rebuilt, these are the limits it would have to meet. In a front yard, the maximum height is 1 m. In a side or rear yard, the maximum is 213 cm (about 7 feet), measured from the grade at the base of the fence, or from the higher grade where the ground is uneven on the two sides. A berm does not raise the limit. On a corner lot, two separate triangle rules apply. The Fence By-law (s.4) says no fence over 75 cm within a triangle formed by measuring 3 m along each lot line from the corner, and no fence over 75 cm within a triangle formed by measuring 2 m along the lot line and the driveway where it meets the street. Separately, Ottawa's zoning by-laws (Zoning By-law 2008-250, s.57, and Zoning By-law 2026-50, s.216) say that on a residential corner lot, solid obstructions over 0.75 m are not permitted

within a triangle measured 6 m along each street lot line from the corner. A see-through fence, such as chain link, is not considered an obstruction under the zoning rule, though any chain link on a residential property must still be vinyl or powder coated under the Fence By-law (s.18). On a corner lot with two overlapping triangle rules from two different sources, confirm the exact layout with the City before any work begins.

If you are thinking about repairs, a few other rules apply regardless of the fence's age. The by-law requires the fence to be stable, vertical, in good repair, and free from hazards (s.11, s.12). The finished side must face the street and neighbouring properties (s.15). No barbed wire or electric current is permitted (s.13).

Local fence installers listed in the Ottawa Construction Network directory receive the requests sent from this site's form.

Before you sign anything with an installer, ask them to confirm in writing exactly which portions of the fence they consider maintenance and which they consider alterations, so you know what triggers the need to meet today's by-law limits.

Q4

Corner triangle rules for a fence in Riverside South?

Riverside South is fully within the City of Ottawa, so the City of Ottawa Fence By-law No. 2003-462 and Ottawa's zoning by-laws both apply. There are two separate triangle rules that can affect a corner lot here, and they come from different sources with different measurements.

Corner triangle rules in Riverside South

The Fence By-law (s.4) says that on a corner lot, no fence may exceed 75 cm in height within a triangle formed by measuring 3 m along each lot line from the corner where the two streets meet. This applies to any fence material, solid or see-through.

Ottawa's zoning by-laws (Zoning By-law 2026-50, s.216, and Zoning By-law 2008-250, s.57) add a second, larger triangle on residential corner lots: no solid obstruction higher than 0.75 m within a triangle measured 6 m along each street lot line from the corner. Under the zoning rules, a chain link fence or other similar see-through feature is not considered an obstruction, so a see-through fence is not restricted by the zoning triangle the way a solid fence is. Keep in mind that the Fence By-law (s.18) still requires any chain link on residential property to be vinyl or powder coated, even if it is see-through for zoning purposes.

These two triangles are separate rules from separate sources, each with its own measurement. On a corner lot in Riverside South, confirm the exact layout with the City of Ottawa before setting any posts near a street corner.

There is also a driveway triangle that applies to every lot, not just corner lots. The Fence By-law (s.4) says no fence may exceed 75 cm within a triangle formed by measuring 2 m along the lot line and 2 m along the driveway edge, from the point where the driveway meets the lot line at the street. This matters wherever a driveway exits to a street, regardless of whether the lot is on a corner.

Outside those triangles, the standard height limits apply: no higher than 1 m in the front yard, and no higher than 213 cm (about 7 feet) in a side or rear yard. Height is measured from the grade at the base of the fence, and where the ground is higher on one side, measurement starts from the higher grade. A berm does not raise the limit.

You can use the form on this page to have local fence installers from the Ottawa Construction Network directory contact you by email with quotes for your Riverside South project.

Ask the City first if the layout near your corner is unclear, then ask the installer to mark both triangles on the drawing that goes with the 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.