As City Permit Fees Rise, Index Fence Outlines Steps for Homeowners

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RALEIGH, NC - October 27, 2026 -
With fall and winter fence installations on the calendar, homeowners in the City of Raleigh now pay $271 for the zoning permit required for a new fence, including the city's 4% technology surcharge on a $261 base fee that took effect July 1. Index Fence, a residential fence installation company that prepares city permit paperwork as part of every quote, is walking homeowners through the new fee and how long review takes. On some properties, a crew must also wait for additional approvals before it can start digging.

The figure comes from Raleigh's Development Fee Guide for the 2027 fiscal year, which lists the zoning permit fee for existing one- and two-family homes at a base of $261, up from $253 in the 2026 fiscal year. The city then adds its 4% technology surcharge, bringing the total to $271. Homeowners who find a lower number in an older online guide may be reading last year's schedule.

The permit applies to more than brand-new fences. Under city rules, a homeowner needs one to add a fence, to move an existing fence, or to replace 50% or more of an existing fence. A permit is still required when less than half of the fence line is replaced if the new section changes the fence's material, height, or location.

Timing, Index Fence says, is the step homeowners most often underestimate. The city's published benchmark for a residential fence application is three business days for the first review and the same for each additional review. Before that review begins, the city estimates three to five business days for intake, the step where staff log the application and confirm it is complete. The city also notes that its "benchmarks represent goals, not guaranteed turnaround times."

Behzad Namazifard, a manager at Index Fence Inc., said the city's review window is only part of the wait. "On a simple backyard job, we usually see the permit side wrap up in one to two weeks. Once a sewer line, an easement, or a tree protection zone runs through the yard, a month or more is normal, and we would rather have that conversation before anyone circles an install date."

Some properties face additional approvals before or alongside that permit. Homes in a local historic district, or designated as a historic landmark, need a Certificate of Appropriateness from the Raleigh Historic Development Commission, a separate sign-off that the change fits the district's character. Properties served by a private well or septic system need approval from Wake County Environmental Services before applying. Corner lots, lots with more than one street frontage, and any fence planned for a front yard are also checked against Raleigh's Street Design Manual, which sets the standards for how construction meets streets and sidewalks.

Index Fence, which has installed close to 2,000 residential fences across the Raleigh metro since opening in 2020, handles the city permit paperwork for each project within the quote and does not charge separately for that preparation. For homes in a homeowners association, the company also pulls together the documents the association's architectural review requires, and the homeowner submits them.

For an installation finished before the end of the year, Index Fence suggests starting the application early and counting backward from the intake and review estimates above. Any lot that needs one of the extra approvals will take longer still.

Homeowners with questions about a planned installation can call Index Fence at (919) 900-7225. They can also learn more about the company's installation work in the area.

About Index Fence Inc.

Index Fence Inc. is a residential fence installation company founded in 2020 and based in Raleigh, NC. The company has completed close to 2,000 fence installations across the Raleigh metro area, working with vinyl, aluminum, wood, and chain-link. Index Fence holds an A+ rating from the Better Business Bureau and was

named a Nextdoor Favorite in 2025. Its office at 4901 Craftsman Dr, Raleigh, NC 27609 is open to walk-in visitors. Visit www.indexfence.com or call (919) 900-7225 to learn more.

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Index Fence Inc.

Index Fence Inc. is a Raleigh-based fence contractor serving the Triangle since 2020. We install vinyl, aluminum, wood, and chain link fences with USA-made materials, free permit prep, and a 1-hour callback promise during business hours.

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