



Tree Protection, Construction Fences and Silt Barriers



**CITY COMMISSION
FEBRUARY 10, 2026**



TREE PROTECTION

Required by Section 82-32 of the City Code –

“Protective barriers shall be a minimum of four feet aboveground level [and] shall be constructed of two-inch by four-inch wood posts and cross members with orange or yellow plastic construction fencing attached, which shall remain in place until development is completed, and the tree preservation agency has authorized their removal.

- On private property, two-inch by four-inch wood cross members may be omitted for larger protection areas at the discretion of the tree protection agency.
- All protective barriers shall remain in place throughout all phases of construction starting prior to the start of any construction or site development including tree removal or land clearing activities and continuing up to final site landscaping activities.
- Only hand digging and grading activities will be permitted within the tree root protection zone.



CONSTRUCTION FENCES



City Code 105-30.(1)(f) – Construction Staging Plans –

“A construction fence shall be covered with a visual/dust barrier ... All visual/dust barriers and wraps shall be kept clean, undamaged and without graffiti, and all information shall be valid and current, as determined by development services.”



CONSTRUCTION FENCES & PEDESTRIAN PROTECTION



In Coral Gables, most demolitions, new construction, and additions will require a construction fence when:

- A construction fence is needed to keep people out of a working jobsite.
- The Building Official decides what is required based on the type of construction project being undertaken.
- Chapter 33 of the FBC also provides pedestrian protection requirements and accounts for height of construction and distance of work being performed from the property line.

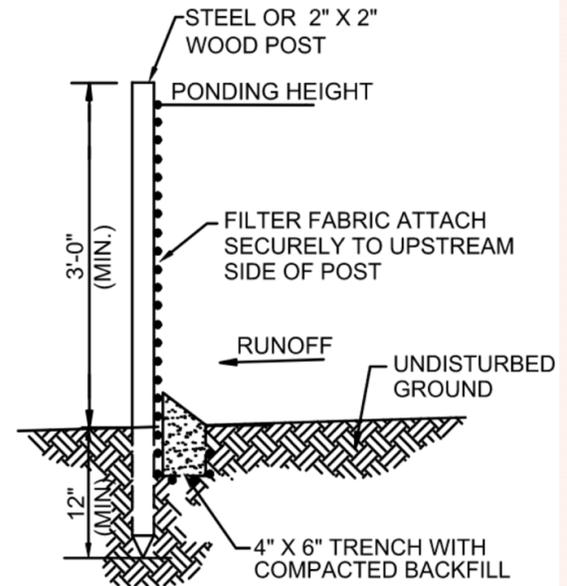


SEDIMENTATION & SILT FENCES – WHEN THEY ARE NEEDED



- Section 402 of the Federal Clean Water Act – National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)
- FS 403.0885
- City Code 86-3.(b) – Regarding waterways and stormwater management systems – “It shall be unlawful for any property owner or entity performing construction activities to cause, let, allow, discard, permit or suffer runoff, erosion and sedimentation into any stormwater drains, inlets, catch basins, curbs and gutters, retention or detention ponds, swales, manholes, junction boxes, culverts, freshwater lakes, waterways or other related components, designed to convey stormwater runoff within the city.”

Detail for silt fences



ACTIONS TAKEN BY STAFF:

- Staff from Development Services and Public Works have overlap of responsibilities for **the permitting and inspection of construction fences, silt fences, and tree protection.**
- Inspectors from both departments **inspect condition of installed fences and tree protection and withhold approvals in cases of non-compliance.**
- Code Enforcement will also enforce these requirements by **proactive patrols, education, and citations, bringing in the Building Official and Public works Inspectors when needed to escalate or stop work in extreme cases.**
- Handouts for tree protection and construction fences have been prepared and **will be sent out with issued permits and used by inspectors to educate contractors.**



THANK YOU