FENCE PLANNING CHECKLIST

Everything to decide before your fence goes up

DECIDE WHAT THE FENCE IS FOR

- [ ] Privacy, pets, pool barrier, security, looks, or a mix
- [ ] Who and what has to get through: people, mower, trailer, boat or RV
- [ ] Which sides of the yard need fence, and which already have one

CHECK THE RULES FIRST

- [ ] HOA: get the architectural guidelines (approved materials, colors, heights, placement)
- [ ] City or county: who handles permits for your address (city if inside city limits, county if not)
- [ ] Front yard height limits are usually lower than backyard limits
- [ ] Pool in the yard? Florida's pool safety law (Ch. 515) calls for a barrier at least 4 ft high with gates that open outward and are self-closing and self-latching
- [ ] Corner lot? Many codes limit height near the corner so drivers can see

KNOW YOUR LINES

- [ ] Find your survey (closing papers) or order one
- [ ] Mark easements on the survey; fences in easements may need extra forms
- [ ] Talk to neighbors about shared lines before the build

PICK THE FENCE

- [ ] Material: wood, vinyl, aluminum or chain link (see our comparison guides)
- [ ] Height and style
- [ ] Gates: how many, how wide, which way they swing
- [ ] Color, if vinyl, aluminum or coated chain link

GET READY FOR THE ESTIMATE

- [ ] Rough length (see our measurement worksheet)
- [ ] Photos of the fence line, old fence and gate spots
- [ ] Your HOA guidelines and survey, if you have them
- [ ] Timeline and budget range

BEFORE DIGGING

- [ ] Florida law (Ch. 556) requires a Sunshine 811 locate at least 2 full business days before digging. Your contractor should handle it
- [ ] Mark private lines 811 does not locate: sprinklers, septic, landscape lighting, pool lines

General guidance, not legal advice. Rules vary by city, county and HOA; confirm for your address. Reviewed November 2026.