



Mercer Island Fire Marshal's Office
3030 78th Avenue SE
Mercer Island, WA 98040
(206) 275-7966

Auto Security Gates

Gates securing the fire apparatus access roads shall comply with all the following criteria:

105.7.12 Gates and barricades across fire apparatus access roads. 2018 IFC

A construction permit is required for the installation of or modification to a gate or barricade across a fire apparatus access road.

D103.5 Fire apparatus access road gates. 2018 IFC

Gates securing the fire apparatus access roads shall comply with all the following criteria:

1. Where a single gate is provided, the gate width shall be not less than 20 feet (6096 mm). Where a fire apparatus road consists of a divided roadway, the gate width shall be not less than 12 feet (3658 mm). *A gate less than 20-feet in width may be approved if only serving a single residence, provided it is protected by a fire sprinkler system or as approved by the Fire Marshal.*
2. Gates shall be of the swinging or sliding type.
3. Gates located on a main arterial shall have provisions for fire apparatus to pull completely off the roadway. Gates shall be set back at least 30 feet from roadway.
4. Construction of gates shall be of materials that allow manual operation by one person.
5. Gate components shall always be maintained in an operative condition and replaced or repaired when defective.
6. Electric gates shall be equipped with a means of opening the gate by fire department personnel for emergency access. Emergency opening devices shall be approved by the fire code official. *A Knox Key Switch, Knox Box, or Click 2 Enter system is required.*
7. Methods of locking shall be submitted for approval by the Fire Marshal.
8. Electric gate operators, where provided, shall be listed in accordance with UL 325.

9. Gates intended for automatic operation shall be designed, constructed and installed to comply with the requirements of ASTM F 2200.

Submit Plans and Specification Sheets for Permit Review

1. Construction documents and supporting data shall be submitted. 105.4.1
2. Construction documents shall be drawn to scale and may be provided in paper format or using electronic media. *For more information on electronic plan submittal visit- <https://www.mercerisland.gov/cpd/page/fire-permits-and-prevention-information>*
3. Plans shall clearly show gate location, driveway paved area all the way to the access road, access easement width if applicable, control pedestal, and any access obstructions in the area.

Permit Review and Inspection

The target Fire Review date for Auto Security Gates is 3 weeks. Two inspections will be performed. A City of Mercer Island electrical inspector will conduct an electrical safety inspection. A Mercer Island Fire Department inspector will perform the final inspection including the Knox Box/Switch or Click 2 Enter. To request your **electrical** inspection use the Inspection Request Line or mybuildingpermit.com. To request your Fire Department inspection use either the Inspection Request Line or mybuildingpermit.com **AND** schedule the date and time at 206-275-7979. Please allow 48 hours notice for your Fire Department Inspection.

Click 2 Enter vs Knox Box/Key Switch

Click 2 Enter uses a radio frequency device to provide emergency access. This provides access to all authorized fire and police agencies in the event of an emergency. Knox access is only available to the Mercer Island Fire Department. We very strongly recommend the use of Click 2 Enter since it also provides access to police and other responding Fire Departments. We frequently get automatic Aid from Bellevue and Seattle Fire, aid, and paramedic units. While there is a cost increase, this system will provide a much higher level of access in the event of a medical or fire emergency.

Planning and Land Use: What does this mean to you?

MICC 19.02.050(E)(1)(a)(ii) states that fences and gates located within the required front yard are allowed to a maximum height of 42 inches. MICC 19.02.020(C)(1)(a) states that the front yard setbacks extends 20 feet from the front property line (the south property line in the case of this lot). Therefore, any fence or gate located within 20 feet of the front property line would need to be no more than 42 inches in height. Any gates or fences more than 42 inches in height would need to be set back at least 20 feet from the front property line. For further information please contact a planner at landuse_planning@mercerisland.gov.