

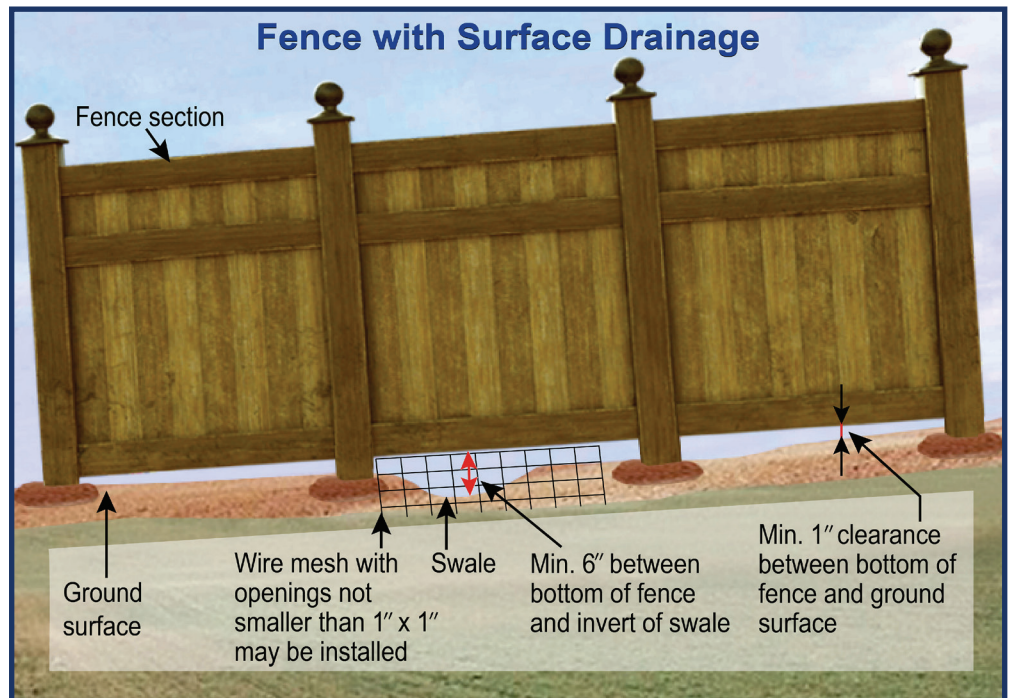
Improperly Installed Fences May Cause Drainage Problems and Flooding!

Every time it rains, many homeowners experience drainage issues on their properties. Some of these drainage complaints result from improperly installed fences. An improperly installed fence can block storm flows — runoff from storm precipitation — and cause water to pond in your yard or your neighbor's yard. Blocked water can damage fences, draw mosquitoes and hasten lawn erosion.

Fences must be installed with storm flows in mind to ensure fences don't block stormwater flows!

Prince George's County Code requires fences to be installed according to the following criteria:

- 1. For fences that cross swales** — little streams on your lawn that collect stormwater — the bottom of the fence must be raised at least 6 (six) inches above the bottom of the swale, also called the "invert" of the swale. See the diagram.
- 2. To prevent surface stormwater** — also called sheet flow — from being blocked by fences, fences should be constructed at least 1 (one) inch above the ground level, as shown in the diagram.



Remember, fences can impede stormwater flow and cause damage to your yard or your neighbor's yard. Build fences according to County Code to avoid drainage issues, mosquitoes and expensive repairs!

Visit the DPIE website at dpiе.mypgc.us and see the reports below for more information:



- [Drainage and Flooding in Prince George's County](#)
- [DPIE's Drainage Defects Complaint Program](#) (for new homes)
- [Information about Flooding and Flood Insurance](#)
- [DPIE Under Construction Newsletter May 2021](#)
- [Prince George's County Stormwater Management Design Manual](#)