

Information Sheets

Fencing

Gates

- Should be free swinging, light to handle and roomy enough for the intended purpose
- Should be the same height as the fence.
- Located in the line fence, not in a corner where a horse or person could get trapped.
- Man/horse gates should be 1.2-1.8m wide. Machinery gates should be 3.6-4.8m wide.
- Walk throughs are small spaces in the fence where a person can slip through sideways. These can be handy but also hazardous if improperly designed.
- Gate sag can be fixed by setting the gate on a rock, cement block or wooden block

Wood Fencing

- If well installed and maintained, they can increase property value.
- Wood should be treated with a non-toxic preservative.
- 3-4 rails depending on preference and use.
- Should be checked at least once a year to assess the need for paint or preservative.
- Check regularly for protruding nails and hammer them in. Expansion and contraction of wood due to weather and moisture cause nails to creep out of wood, sometimes protruding an inch or more in just a few days.
- Horses tend to chew wooden fencing. To prevent this, use an anti-chew applicator or add an electric wire.

Buck Fencing

- It is a series of triangles that sit on top of the ground and are connected by rails.

- Ideal for rocky or very irregular terrain where post holes would be difficult if not impossible to engineer.
- Made of long thin poles (bark on or off).
- Would be an open invitation for chewing if used in a small confined area; most suitable for large, mountain pastures.

PVC Fencing

- Makes a very good-looking fence that never needs painting.
- Expensive, but has elastic action and is highly visible so tends to result in fewer injuries than many other types of fencing.
- Horses do not generally chew PVC fencing.
- Highly resistant to ultraviolet rays.
- In humid climates you may need to occasionally wash it with mildew removing agents.

PVC or Vinyl Coated Wood Fencing

- Planks and square wooden posts covered with synthetic sheathing.
- Ends of boards and posts have protective caps to prevent moisture from getting into the wood.
- Very little maintenance, attractive, durable, safe, and highly visible.
- Deters chewing.
- Expensive.

Pipe Fencing

- Very strong and safe.
- Particularly good for pens and runs.

- Needs little maintenance, especially if rustproof metal or paint is used.
- Pipe posts must be set in concrete.
- Often 5.08cm drill-stem pipe is used for the top and bottom rails with 3-4 strands of cable or sucker rod in between.
- Little flexibility.
- Can be expensive unless you are located near an oil field where the materials are available as salvage.
- Attractive, however some feel it lacks the aesthetically pleasing appearance of other fencing types.

Flex Fencing

- Low maintenance
- Safe as it flexes on impact then returns to its original shape rather than breaking upon impact. Therefore, it tends to have a lower injury rate.
- Cracks due to UV light.
- Requires frequent tension adjustments (1-2 times a year).
- Only need to replace the piece that is broken, not the entire piece.
- Horses really like to chew on them; can install an electrical wire on the top.
- One of the more expensive options.

Wire Fencing

- Different types like smooth wire fence and mesh wire fence.
- Economical, especially for large pastures and when properly installed and maintained.
- Needs to be stretched tight to prevent sagging and bulging.

- Horses love to rub on this fencing especially during shedding season.
- Sometimes electric wire is installed around hip height to deter horses rubbing and leaning over the fence or have a wooden board across the top (and the bottom to prevent it from horse getting caught in it).
- One of the least expensive options.

Electric Fencing

- Pulsing (recommended) or continuous charge (electrical burn/electrocution if horse gets tangled).
- Can prevent horses from chewing or leaning on fences.
- Requires wire, insulators, post and a grounded power source.
- Types: solid steel wire, insulated wire, polymer rope, polymer tape.
- Insulators
 - Steel wire requires ceramic insulators
 - Plastic coated wire can use plastic insulators
 - Fiberglass posts do not require insulators
- Power source
 - Plug in
 - Run on 110/120-volt household current and are effective and economical
 - Battery
 - Only useful for temporary fencing
 - Batteries replaced every 2-6 weeks
 - Often leaves fencing without sufficient charge to stay safe
 - Solar

- Fully charged battery lasts three weeks without sunlight
 - Requires 3-4 hours of sunlight to maintain charge
 - Should be mounted in south facing direction out of reach of horses
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- Must be a grounded complete circuit (1.8-2.4m into the ground)
 - The further the horse is from the power source the lower the shock
 - More weeds touching the fence = lower shock
 - One power source can power 4.8-40.23km of electric fence