

The

Good Fence Guide

The World of Garden Fences





The ColourFence guide to a good fence:

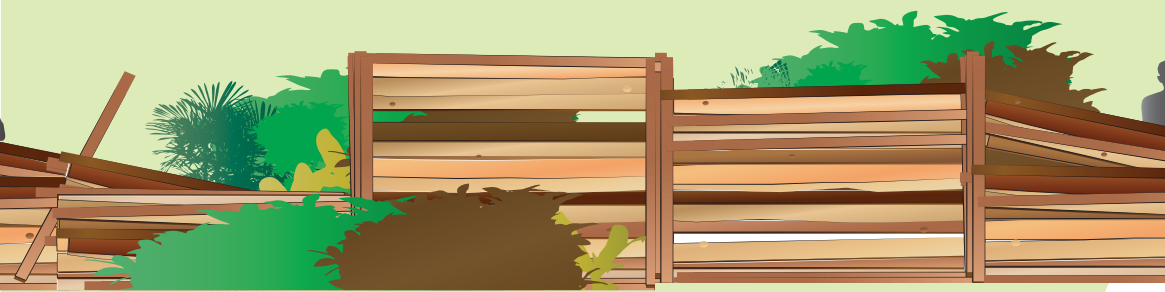
ColourFence has been an established company for over 20 years. In this time, we've learnt a thing or two about garden fences, railing, gates and more!

We all want to make our garden an extension of our homes, with ColourFence, home improvement has never been easier. The secure metal fencing can help your garden look classy and timeless with a choice of colour options and styles.

In this guide, we'll offer an insight into different garden fences available on the market. We'll look at their design practicality, functionality and their benefits. Back in the day the choices are limited, but now the fence buyer has a number of different options to consider before their purchase!

We'll walk you through the different options available on the market currently and the key facts we've come across as we looked into replacing and upgrading general purpose and domestic fencing. We will also reveal how by choosing with the long term in mind how to ditch the preservatives and quit worrying what damage the weather might cause to your fence - once and for all!

The ColourFence Team





Entry Level - The Basic DIY Fence

When it comes to fencing in the garden, the most popular (and cheapest) option is to install standard 6 foot wide lap panels supported by timber or concrete posts.

Widely available, these panels sold by DIY centres are often made with cut-price low grade materials. This keeps the costs down but the sacrifice is quality and longevity - buy too cheap and you are looking at just another temporary fix. Most professional fence installers aren't interested in fitting the cheapest lap panels because the inherent quality issues invariably end up back with them. So if cheap lap panels are what you decide on, it is likely that you will be installing them yourself, or finding a "handyman" to do it for you. Chances are, many of the problems you are having with your fence are because it was just such a DIY effort. Installed with the best of intentions perhaps, but fencing really is

a product where you get what you pay for. Cutting corners just saves up problems.

You'll need some reasonable skills to get a successful DIY effort completed. Shifting six foot square fence panels is not easy - and it's worth having two people on the project as fence posts and panels are quite heavy. It all depends on the size of your garden, of course, but the job could take a weekend to complete if everything goes smoothly.

Once it is up - then of course you have to treat it. Even DIY panels labelled as treated will have only the barest minimum of protection. To stand any chance of the fence lasting you should set aside at least another weekend to coat your panels with an expensive coat of preservative. However the trouble with modern treatments is that they are water based - so from the very start





they are not as effective as traditional creosote (which was banned because it contained toxic carcinogenic chemicals). This invariably means they don't last as long and you will be forced to repeat the process every few years. It's a big job, that suddenly doubles in size when you

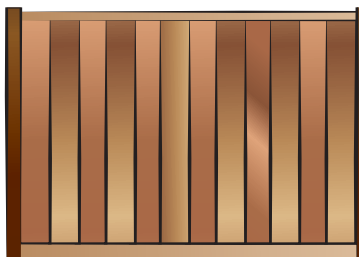
realise that you really need to treat BOTH SIDES of the fence for the protection to be effective. Trampling over your plants and flower beds in order to treat 'your side' is one thing but accessing your neighbours garden and risking damage to theirs is quite another. It's unlikely you will come up smelling of roses if you damage their plants treating your fence.

Mid Range - Close Board Fence Systems

Close board (or feather edge fencing) systems are the next step up. They are what most professional fence installers recommend to clients who prefer timber fencing. You could install these fence systems yourself but normally they are only available from specialist suppliers and their erection is not normally considered to be a DIY job. As with anything, however, there is a massive variation in service and standards out there. It pays to be cautious. Find a professional however and you will benefit from their experience of day-in-day-out

fitting fences and remove much of the hassle. Rather than being supplied in complete 6ft wide panels, close board systems utilise better quality vertical boards that are nailed together, board by board, to form the fence on site. As they are made to measure they may be suitable for awkward boundaries. Many companies will treat the wood for you after set up, but going forward that is going to be your ongoing role.

Treated regularly they should last - but there will always be a battle between the elements and the wood and nature has the odds stacked in her favour.



Battling the weather is a full time job

However you look at it, whatever you paint it with, a wooden fence will struggle to look as good as new even if you use the most expensive

treatments. You can delay the effects of the weather but it will be a constant and potentially expensive time consuming battle.



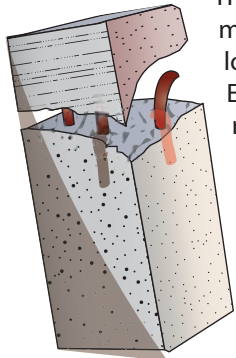
It's a battle you can't win.

Wood always rots.

& surprisingly so might concrete...

Concrete posts are often offered as a longer lasting alternative to timber posts in traditional systems.

The truth is, however, they might not actually last as long as you might think. Exposing concrete with reinforced metal bars inside (as all fence posts do) to the elements will inevitably cause the post then the fence to fail. They won't rot, but they will corrode, as featured recently in The Telegraph...



The Telegraph

25 Jan 2015

“ The reason reinforced concrete fence posts, lamp-posts and park benches fail is because they are exposed to rainwater. The rain absorbs carbon dioxide from the atmosphere as it falls, thus becoming weak carbonic acid. This soaks into the surface of the concrete and, over the years, this acidity neutralises the alkalinity of the cement and allows the steel to start corroding.

As the steel corrodes, it expands, pushing the face off the concrete and hastening the destruction.”

The pros of Wood

- Natural appearance
- Value options available
- Versatile - many design & style options
- Can be finished with your choice of stain/paint
- Easy to fix decorations, lights and planters to

The cons of Wood

- (Annual) maintenance required
- Weathers quickly
- May rot due to moisture
- May warp due to moisture
- Can become infested with destructive beetles and burrowing insects.
- Posts liable to rot undermining the rest of the structure
- Wide variation in quality - of fence materials and installation companies



Mid Range - PVC 'plastic' fencing

As you would expect a fence made of plastic is incredibly lightweight. This is great when handling and assembling but perhaps not ideal when you intend that it be a lasting investment. As with timber fences quality varies wildly, some systems are designed to make use of existing concrete posts, whilst others even employ plastic posts. The panels themselves vary - usually supplied in sections moulded to replicate sections of wooden boarding. A single 6 foot panel section may therefore be made from 3-4 strips of this plastic boarding. Some companies use waste plastic to form their 'timber panels' and then let the imitation wood grain surface soften their appearance in your garden. The plastic does not need painting, but will over time suffer exposure to extremes in weather. It's worth considering that long after your fence might have been broken and been cleared away the plastic panels it was made from will still need to be responsibly dealt with and will continue to live on in land fill.

The pros of PVC

- PVC fences are a low maintenance alternative to wood - you need never paint or stain again
- Wide range of styles, post caps to match, and colours to choose from
- High-quality PVC can resemble traditional wood from a distance
- It's easy to clean; dirt can be washed away using only a sponge and hose (or a pressure washer)

The cons of PVC

- PVC fencing is tough but it can still crack. A stray football or minor impact can damage it and repair involves filler, sanding and a great deal of effort. Extreme temperatures can make it brittle which again makes it susceptible to damage
 - Mold and mildew will thrive on PVC fences
 - PVC fences are more expensive than their wooden counterparts. You may save money in the long run, but the upfront costs are greater
- There are very few companies that specialise in fitting PVC fencing - very often it is another DIY option - with the labour down to you



If you want a fence that lasts,
that doesn't rot, and won't break the bank
there is a clear choice...

High Quality -The Colourfence System

The Colourfence fence is perhaps the ultimate choice. For the last 10 years it's been widely used across the UK and has steadily gained a reputation for its quality. By using the highest specification Colorbond steel in the fence structure itself, complemented by the highest level of customer service from accredited Franchisees, Colourfence is now regarded by many as the premier fencing solution in the market. It is easy to see why when you also factor in that prices are actually in line with inferior mid-range systems.

Immune to the rot and resistant to the weather that so quickly effects

wooden fences, Colourfence is a remarkable system. It has none of the drawbacks of wood or PVC systems - but all the benefits. What's more it's better value than either of them.

A major benefit of Colourfence is that you can rely upon it to do what it should come wind, rain or shine. It's a level of confidence that can only be experienced, when your product has been exhaustively tested. Tests and cyclonic ratings have proved that when professionally installed Colourfence is capable of withstanding wind gusts of up to 130mph. Once it's up - this is one fence that really does stay up!





Guaranteed not to rot, rust or peel Colourfence is available in a range of colours that last and last. You need never paint it. You need never treat it.

It really is virtually maintenance free. An occasional wash down with a hose is enough to keep it looking in top condition. Owning a Colourfence will therefore not only save you the expense of maintenance, but will also save you time and hassle. Time that can be far better spent 'enjoying' your garden rather than toiling in it.

Colourfence approved installation teams are highly efficient Franchisees that operate with the minimum of

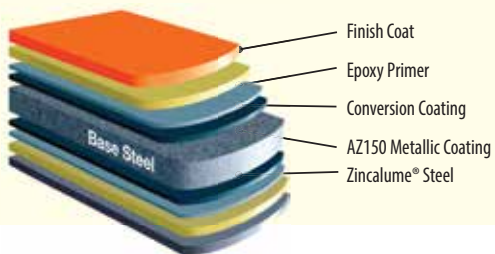
disruption and maximum attention to detail. In no time at all Colourfence can make your fence the envy of the neighbourhood.

Pricing is straightforward and attractive. Starting costs are in line with mid range timber systems but offer the ongoing peace of mind that your investment will continue to save maintenance time and money year after year.

For homeowners across the UK, Colourfence finally offers the promise of a lifetime of hassle-free enjoyment of their gardens.

The fence that repairs itself

If you scratch or cut Colourfence, the ingenious zinc element in the Zinalume steel reacts with moisture to form a protective barrier to prevent any corrosion with no action needed from you.



The Pros of ColourFence:

- ColourFence is virtually maintenance free.
- Guaranteed to not warp, peel, shrink or rot for 25 years!
- Free site and quotation service, by accredited surveyors.
- Save money and install your fence yourself!
- Range of colour and style options available.
- No extra costs for wood paints or stain!

The Cons of ColourFence:

- Get ready to answer lots of questions from family, friends and neighbours about your new fence!

"Brilliant product and excellent staff. My whole garden is now beautifully furnished with this garden fencing! No more painting for me and no more worries about windy weather. So pleased!"

- Anne Brown, Cornwall

**MADE IN
BRITAIN** 



OVER 100,000 INSTALLED AND STILL STANDING



Freephone:
0800 644 4113

Website:
ColourFence.co.uk

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