

Fencing Basics

Keep animals in, or pests and predators out

DIFFICULTY Moderate

TYPE One-off build

TIME A weekend to a week depending on scale



DIFFICULTY
Moderate



TIME
1–7 days



COST
Moderate–high



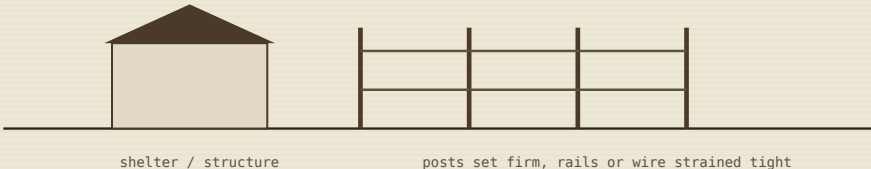
BEST SEASON
Any time



FREQUENCY
Built once,
maintained
ongoing

01 Posts set firm, wire strained tight

Good fencing comes down to two fundamentals: posts set deep and firm enough to resist pressure, and wire or mesh strained tight enough not to sag — skimping on either undermines the whole fence.



02 What you'll need

- Posts (timber, steel, or a mix of strainer and standard posts)
- Wire, mesh, or electric fencing appropriate to what you're containing or excluding
- A post hole digger or auger
- A wire strainer for tensioning

03 Method

1. Plan the line and mark corner and strainer post positions.
2. Dig and set corner/strainer posts deep and firm — these bear most of the load.
3. Set standard posts along the line at consistent spacing.
4. Attach and strain wire or mesh tight between posts.
5. Add any specific features needed — electric wire for extra deterrence, buried mesh for digging animals, or gates for access.

04 Troubleshooting

- **Fence sagging over time** — usually under-strained wire or insufficiently firm strainer posts; re-tension or reinforce posts.
- **Animals pushing through or under** — check for gaps at ground level; consider a buried skirt of mesh for persistent diggers.
- **Posts leaning or loosening** — insufficient depth or firming when set; corner and strainer posts especially need to be set deep and well-compacted.
- **Electric fence not deterring animals** — check the fence is actually earthed and charged correctly; a weak or faulty circuit won't work.

05 Timing & maintenance

BEST TIME	Any time, though avoiding very wet or frozen ground makes post-hole digging much easier.
DURATION	A simple garden fence can be a weekend project; larger paddock fencing takes considerably longer.
MAINTENANCE	Check tension and post condition periodically, especially after storms or ground movement.
SIGNS OF SUCCESS	A fence that stays taut, upright, and effective at containing or excluding what it was built for, season after season.

06 Tips & variations

PAIRS WELL WITH

Building a Chicken Coop

COMMON MISTAKES

Under-setting corner and strainer posts, which bear the most load

Skimping on wire tension, leading to a sagging fence within a season

PRO TIP

Spend proportionally more time and material on corner and strainer posts than on the line posts between them — they do most of the structural work.