



## 10-STEP FREE GUIDE TO CHOOSING THE RIGHT FENCE

### Step 1: Define Your Purpose

Before contacting a contractor, it is important to understand the purpose of your fence. Common reasons for installing a fence include:

- Privacy
- Security
- Aesthetics: Enhancing the look of your property.
- Noise Reduction: Minimizing traffic or neighborhood noise.

### Step 2: Choose the Appropriate Material

Your choice of material will determine the fences durability, maintenance requirements, longevity, and appearance.

- **Wood Fence**
  - Pros: Classy, customizable, budget friendly, great for privacy and aesthetics.
  - Cons: Requires maintenance (staining and sealing), rots over time, can attract unwanted pests.
  - Best for: Privacy, aesthetics, and traditional designs.
- **Vinyl Fence**
  - Pros: Low maintenance, durable, long lasting, available in various textures and colors.
  - Cons: Higher upfront costs and will need to be cleaned with chemicals. Not as aesthetically pleasing.
  - Best for: Privacy, low maintenance, and long term investment.
- **Aluminum Fence**
  - Pros: Low maintenance, durable, elegant look, rust resistant, and lightweight.
  - Cons: Little privacy and higher upfront cost.
  - Best for: Decorative, low-maintenance, areas with a need for curb appeal.
- **Chain-Link Fence**
  - Pros: Cost effective, durable, easy to repair, and good for security.
  - Cons: Offers little privacy and less aesthetic appeal.
  - Best For: Budget friendly options, security, and pet containment.

### Step 3: Installation Method (No-Dig vs. Concrete)

- **No-Dig**
  - Pros: 4-10x stronger than a post set in concrete, 2x post depth, faster installation, and less invasive, increased life span.
  - Cons: The no-dig installation method is less customizable for wood fences and has a higher upfront cost.
- **Dig and Set with Concrete**
  - Pros: Easily customizable (wood fences) and typically less expensive.
  - Cons: Suseptible to post rot (wood fences), post settling, less durable overtime, less wind load resistance, and more invasive.

## Step 4: Consider Height and Size

The height of your fence depends on your budget, purpose of the fence, and local regulations.

- Privacy Fences: Typically 6-8 ft tall.
- Security Fences: Typically 4-8 ft tall depending on the type of fence.
- Aesthetic Fences: Typically 4-6 ft tall.

Check your local fence regulations as some areas have height restrictions for fences.

**Free Pro Tip!** You can research your city's website by typing "fence" in the search bar. Most websites give you information for fence height restrictions, restrictions for drainage easements, permitting requirements, etc.

## Step 5: Style and Aesthetic

The fence you choose should complement the architectural style of your home.

- Traditional Homes: Wood or black aluminum fences work well for a classic, rustic, or charming look.
- Modern Homes: Sleek black aluminum fences, horizontal wood, or cap and trim wood fences create a contemporary look that complements this style house.
- Farmhouse: Consider wood or wire fences for a more rustic appearance.

## Step 6: Maintenance Requirements

Some fences will demand more upkeep than others. It's essential to keep this in mind if you're willing to invest more upfront for reduced maintenance expenses in the future.

- Wood: Needs regular maintenance including staining and sealing.
- Vinyl: Minimal maintenance required, with only occasional cleaning needed.
- Aluminum: Minimal maintenance
- Chain-Link: Requires minimal maintenance; however, over time, certain sections of the wire may need replacement if they become damaged.

**Free Pro Tip!** Factor in the time and money you are willing to spend on upkeep when making your decision.

## Step 7: Budget

- Low Budget: Chain-link and wood fences are the most cost effective.
- Mid Budget: Custom style wood fences and shorter height aluminum fences.
- High Budget: Vinyl and aluminum fences are the most expensive, but offer long-term value with less maintenance.

## Step 8: Professional Installation vs. DIY

If you're planning to install the fence yourself, consider the complexity of the project.

- DIY-friendly options: chain-link and wood picket fences are relatively easy.
- Professional Installation: Materials like vinyl, aluminum and custom wood fences may require professional installation for best results. Professional fences installation companies with a good reputation likely have proven installation methods, access to higher quality materials, and provide a workmanship warranty.

## Step 9: Check Local Regulations

Before moving forward, check with your local municipality or HOA about fence height restrictions, material restrictions, or permit requirements.

**Free Pro Tip!** Have access to a final survey of your property to insure your fence will be installed within your property lines.

## Step 10: Consider Long-Term Investment

A fence is a long term investment. When making your final decision, consider factors like curb appeal, durability, resale value, and maintenance.

**If you require help from a fencing expert, reach out to Atlantic Fencing through our website at <https://atlanticfencinginc.com/contact/>, or give our office a call at 919-614-0049.**