
Fences and fencing

Good fences are a must on a horse property. As well as keeping horses safe, they protect areas from horses and maintain boundaries between your property and your neighbours or your property and the road. Good fences reduce the chance of accidents occurring to people, horses and third parties. In addition, good fences are aesthetically pleasing and increase the value of a property. Having good fences does not have to be an expensive operation as the most expensive options are not necessarily the safest or the best.

There is no one kind of fence that is ideal for all situations, climates, type of horse or budgets. There have been many advances in fence types in recent years that have resulted in a wider variety of fencing which gives the horse owner plenty of choice, whatever the budget.

Many horse properties have several different kinds of fencing as different areas often have different requirements. The fencing used in a particular area depends on many factors including the paddock or yard size, the size and type of horses, whether you have other livestock as well as horses and your budget. Using different fence types in different parts of the property is often the best way of avoiding the disadvantages of certain fence types.

Safety, cost and appearance are other important considerations when designing fences for horses.

Fences should also keep intruders out. Dogs and children (whether they are your own or the neighbours') must be prevented from entering horse areas unless given permission (such as with your own children), because as well as not wishing anyone else's children or pets to get injured you may be legally liable if they do.

Fences are one of the biggest killers of horses but are only dangerous when the horse actually comes into contact with them. However, there are certain things that you can do to reduce the risks.

- Turn horses out together to reduce the incidence of horses walking fence lines and even challenging fences in an attempt to get to other horses. As well as being safer