

# 5 things that can DESTROY your fence

## POOR CONSTRUCTION

No matter how well you care for your fence, if they haven't been properly built, they could be destroyed in a short period of time.

The best way to protect your treated timber against the harsh Australian elements & ensure your hard work looks great for years to come is to nail, screw or fix your fencing correctly.

\* For most soil conditions, posts should be set into the ground approximately 450mm deep for fences up to 1200mm & 600mm deep for fences between 1200mm & 1800mm high. Post holes should have a minimum diameter of 300mm.

\* Two rails may be used for paling fences up to 1200mm high. Fences exceeding 1200mm & up to 1800mm high, require three rails.

\* Nails for 15mm thick palings should be either 50 x 2.8mm (hand driven) or 45 x 2.5mm (gun nails).

\* All fixings should be hot dipped galvanised or stainless steel.

## WEATHER

Queensland's climatic extremes can definitely impact the longevity of your timber fence.

Relentless rain, moisture & humidity changes over a prolonged period can lead to wet rot, & summer sun can make timber brittle & prone to cracking & splitting.

On an accurately constructed outdoor timber fence, you can prevent & minimise these elemental effects through the application of a protective finish such as a quality timber oil, paint or other water & UV repellent immediately after installation.

If you choose to stain or paint, these products should be applied & re-applied in accordance with the manufacturers instructions.

Where preservative treated timber is used, the compatibility of the selected coating should also be checked.

## FALLEN BRANCHES

When branches become old or heavy, they can break off, fall on your fence & cause substantial damage.

\* As part of your general home maintenance you should trim back trees & branches that overhang your fence line.

\* After a storm you should check nearby trees for broken or unstable branches.

## YARD DEBRIS

Yard debris such as leaves that land on your fence rails or become lodged between fence palings, can aid in the acceleration of rot in timber.

\* You should regularly clean debris from your fence, especially during the wet season.

\* Try to keep fence palings off the ground, away from garden matter & trim any grass that grows along your fence line.

## WATER

Sprinklers, pooling water & other constant sources of moisture will accelerate rot & shorten the life & look of a timber fence.

\* Move sprinkler heads, pool & water drains away from your fence.

\* Ensure proper drainage so that water doesn't pool around the bottom of your fence.

For further information on timber fence regulations, construction & maintenance, please refer to Timber Queensland Technical Data Sheet # 20 - Residential Timber Fences.

Copies are available at 5 Star Timbers Woodridge (Ph: 3386 0595), Stapylton (Ph: 3386 1055) & our website: [www.5startimbers.com.au](http://www.5startimbers.com.au)