



Side and Rear Fencing

If you live in an urban or suburban setting chances are part or all of your boundary will be fenced to some degree.

Security, Privacy and Enclosure

The fencing to the front of your property may have an aesthetic component to its design, address the street and form part of the streetscape of the neighbourhood.

Whereas the role of the side and rear fences of the property is generally more functional.

Security

Once an intruder can gain access to the sides and rear of your property it is easier for them to gain access to your home undetected.

Strong, high and non climbable fences should be fitted to the sides and rear of the property to restrict access.

Although many varieties of fencing define the property some types do little to deter intruders, particularly if not in good repair.

Are my fences in good repair?

Privacy

A solid side or rear fence can afford a high degree of privacy to outdoor areas.

A fence with no gaps or openings limits views into the yard and provides a level of privacy even if your neighbours are only a few meters away.

Enclosure

The third important function of fencing to your backyard and private areas is enclosure.

A fenced yard creates a safe and secure area for young children and pets.

When deciding where to locate fencing in your yard remember that meter readers need clear access to water and power meters and visitors need safe access to your front door.

This is particularly important if you own a dog. A fence design that restricts the dog to the backyard leaving free access to meters and the front door is the best option in this case.

Fence Design for Security

Side and rear should be designed to restrict easy access.

With any fence installed for security purposes there should be minimal footholds on the external face particularly in the center third of the fence height.

Is my property secure against intruders?

Any rails should be on the inside of the fence. The fence should be a minimum of 1600mm high, preferably 1800mm and should provide a barrier to intrusion not an invitation.

Passageways

If your property is not fenced at the street fit a strong, lockable, high gate across the passageway to stop a thief getting to the back of your home where they can work without being disturbed. If you share a passageway with a neighbour, ask their permission and for help with the costs.

Rear Access

Having a rear access to your property can have great advantages but ensure that any fence and gate installed are solid and high and the gate lockable.

Type of Fence

There are a wide range of ways to enclose the sides and rear of your property ranging from the conventional timber paling fence to specialist security fences or more ornate designs.

Fences for Design

Recent trends in Australia towards smaller blocks of land and larger homes has led to an increase in popularity of the courtyard style garden.

As a result the side and rear fence, in many cases, are taking on more of a role within the landscaping as well as the more traditional enclosure and security roles.

Fences are used as backdrops for planting and hard landscaping and even water features.



Regardless of the location or eventual design of the fencing for your property the basic considerations remain the same:

- *Is my property secure against intruders?*
- *Am I able to enclose my pets and small children safely within my own property?*
- *Are my private spaces screened and protected to their full potential?*
- *Does my fence assist with the look and feel of my yard?*
- *Are my fences in good repair?*

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Side and Rear Fencing



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