

Building Construction**FENCING****GENERAL**

There are numerous styles of fence used and found on our sites, but only the more common ones will be mentioned here. They are chainlink, post and rail, close boarded, palisade and security. When specifying the height of fencing, thought should be given to whether Planning Consent will be required. Barbed wire must never be used on our sites. Care must be taken with the selection of sawn timber on sites involving children, to avoid harmful splinters.

CHAINLINK

Available in two finishes, galvanised and plastic coated, and supported by either angle/'T' irons or concrete posts. This type of fencing is commonly found around the perimeter of educational sites, hard play areas, tennis courts, etc. Generally kicker rails to be provided to the two latter mentioned locations.

a. Galvanised Chainlink

To be to Table I of BS1722 Part I 1986. Minimum gauge 3.00mm, but preferably 3.55mm should be used on 3.15mm galvanised high tensile line wires. Stirrups to be 3mm galvanised mild steel. All fittings and fixings to be galvanised. Chainlink to be hung off top line wire by every third link and secured to intermediate and bottom line wires by hog-rings – tying wire is not to be used.

b. Plastic Coated Chainlink

Only the type of plastic coated chainlink which has a galvanised wire core is acceptable, and where the core wire has a minimum diameter of 3.00mm. Mild steel line wires to have a galvanised core size of 3.55. Stirrups with galvanised core 3mm MS. All fittings and fixings to be galvanised. Chainlink to be fixed as for galvanised finish in (a) above.

c. Concrete Posts and Struts

To be to Section 2.2 Table 3 and Appendix A of BS1722 Part I 1986. Posts to be at 3m maximum centres.

d. Steel Angles and Ts

To be to BS1722 Part 1 1986, BS 4848 Part 4 and BS4360. All steelwork to be hot dip galvanised after manufacture. Posts to be at a maximum of 3m centres.

e. Gates

To be constructed to match the fence line in which they appear. Steelwork to be hot dip galvanised after manufacture.

POST AND RAIL

The two most common types are oak morticed posts with oak or chestnut cleft rails, or posts (morticed or unmorticed) with sawn rails, both in oak or pressure treated softwood. The above types generally have 2/3 horizontal rails. Sawn rail fencing may be overlaid with chainlink or weldmesh to contain smaller children.

CLOSE BOARDED

To be found on many non education sites and used in any location where privacy is required. In some locations we may have a legal obligation to erect and maintain such a fence. Supporting posts may be in timber (oak/treated softwood) or in concrete. Concrete posts generally have concrete gravel boards. Arris rails, pales and other members may be in oak or treated softwood. Oak arris rails are to be cut from a 75 x 75mm section and softwood are to be cut from an 87 x 87mm section. All close boarded fencing to have gravel boards, counter rails and cappings. Posts to be at a maximum of 3m centres.

PALISADE

Generally used to enclose Early Learning Year play areas, are usually in pressure treated softwood, 1M high with 100 x 100mm softwood posts at 2M centres which are 0.5M into ground and surrounded in concrete. Arris rails are cut from a 75 x 75mm section and pales are 75 x 25mm with semi-circular tops.

SECURITY

County Planners consider galvanised steel palisade fencing in almost all circumstances unacceptable on most of our sites. It is more appropriate for industrial premises. Some types of mesh fencing, especially those that have an 'industrial' appearance (weldmesh) may be considered inappropriate on publicly visible boundaries such as front ones and those facing residential properties.

The first consideration should be given to colour coated bow top, traditional vertical bar or similar railings where there are no footholds and narrower distances between the vertical bars. Where a mesh fence is considered acceptable then it should be colour coated. Green colour coating is generally acceptable for fencing surrounding playing fields and for a darker colour against buildings.

Planning consent may be required if the height of an existing fence is to be increased or there is no fence there at present.

FOOTPATH BARRIERS

There should be 0.5-m clearance between the kerb face and any street furniture positioned in the footway unless this restricts the remaining available footway to less than 1.2m (DB32).

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