

Protecting Your Land and Outbuildings

FENCES AND GATES

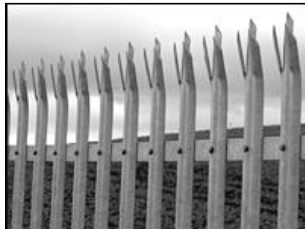
It is not always possible to store vulnerable items every evening in a secure building. However, there are ways to protect your property by building secure enclosures and covering the vulnerable items so that they are not obvious to a passer-by.

LEGISLATION REGARDING FENCE AND WALLS

Fences should conform to British Standard **BS 1722** or equivalent. The addition of a hostile topping such as barbed wire or razor wire serves as an additional deterrent to climbing. Consideration should be given to the **Occupier's Liability Act 1984** in relation to the height of the fence and the requirement for signage, but the rule of thumb is that security toppings can be used, with warning signage, at a height over 2.1 metres.

Security toppings must be manufactured for purpose (eg, barbed wire, razor wire, roller barriers, prickler strip or anti-climb paint). If a product is not manufactured as a security topping as its primary purpose, you cannot use it as such. This includes carpet gripper, broken glass and nails.

You do not need planning permission to erect a fence or wall as long as it does not exceed a height of 2.1 metres.



Palisade Fencing



Expanded Metal Fencing



Weldmesh Fencing



Chainlink Fencing

PALISADE FENCING

Palisade fencing is formed from vertical 'pales', often with pointed or splayed tops. It can be galvanised or finished with a polymer coat and is available in various thicknesses and profiles. The fixing system will affect how secure such fencing is and the visibility (at an angle) through palisade fencing is poor. Damage can easily be repaired by replacing pales and the fence height can easily be increased by adding extension pales. Palisade is very popular but offers no greater physical security than either weldmesh or expanded metal fences of the same height.

EXPANDED METAL FENCING

Expanded metal fences are very rigid (if correctly installed) and can be galvanised or polyester coated for longevity. They are difficult to cut through but repairs are likely to require whole panel replacement. Consideration should be given to potential livestock movements since the mesh tends to have sharp edges that could cause injury.

WELDMESH FENCING

Welded mesh fencing can also be galvanised or coated. It offers much better visibility than either palisade or expanded metal fences and is arguably more aesthetically pleasing than both. It is difficult to cut and may be suitable for the addition of a fence alarm system.

CHAINLINK FENCING

Chainlink fencing offers a visible barrier but has no great resistance as it is possible to drive a vehicle through it. It is most useful for creating zones and small enclosures.

GATES

Gates are often the weak link in an otherwise secure area. Gates should be of the same security standard as the fence that they are attached to and be fitted with anti-lift hinges.

Consideration should be given to minimising gaps between posts and in particular the clearance beneath the bottom edge of the gate(s) to prevent unauthorised access. Uneven ground beneath gates can allow a 'crawling' attack.



Gates should be secured using a quality, close-shackle padlock or fitted with a shroud to prevent leverage to a standard padlock.

For more information on security fencing visit: www.securedbydesign.com

LOCKS

Generally, mortise or sash type locks (which are embedded within the door) offer more security than rim-type locks (that are attached to the surface of the door). Five-lever rather than two- or three-lever locks are recommended since they have over 1,000 key options, making it far less likely that a duplicate key can be used.

Fitted locks used to secure doors, gates and shutters should conform to **British Standard BS 3621**.

Padlocks can be open shackle or close shackle. The word "open" in relation to an open shackle padlock refers to the fact that there is a substantial gap between the centre of the shackle and the body of the padlock. It is therefore possible to attack the shackle with a crowbar or pair of bolt croppers. The space between the shackle and padlock body on a close shackle padlock is much smaller, making it difficult to attack.

When securing doors or pairs of doors (double leaf), a padlock may be used in conjunction with a locking bar or pad bar. These can be horizontal or vertical and should be securely bolted to wooden doors or alternatively welded to metal doors.

Padlocks used to secure such fittings should conform to **BS EN 12320** or equivalent. Padlocks with concealed shackles or raised 'shoulders' are recommended since they offer greater resistance to attack.

For added security, padlocks can be 'shrouded' to prevent attack using leverage or cutting tools.

It is important that key control is exercised so that keys can always be accounted for and they should be stored securely when not in use. Do not be tempted to leave a spare key in a convenient hiding place – an offender can quickly find and use keys 'hidden' in this way. It is much better to leave a spare set of keys with a neighbouring farmer – you could offer to do the same for them.



Closed Shackle Lock



Open Shackle Lock



Security Hasp

SECURITY HASPS

A padlock is only effective when used with a security hasp – this is a hasp which covers the screw heads when in the closed position, therefore removing the possibility of unscrewing the plate.

Remember, hinges are also vulnerable – an offender can easily remove these to gain entry. Again, there are many different styles, sizes and metal strengths – choose the one most appropriate for your use.

Alternatively, use coach bolts to secure hinges and hasps.

For more information on locks, visit: www.securedbydesign.com/aware/locks

SECURITY LIGHTING

Security lighting should form part of an overall security regime. It need not be expensive to install, maintain or run and provides a real deterrent to intruders. Given sufficient time a determined and resourceful intruder can defeat any physical security measures or alarm/detection system.

Effective security lighting can, however, substantially reduce the time available to a potential intruder by making them vulnerable to discovery whilst they attempt to gain access to your store – especially where they may be overlooked by a farmhouse.

Well thought-out lighting offers protection by:

- Deterring the intruder by creating a feeling of uncertainty
- Providing light to help detect or identify intruders
- Displacing intruders to areas which are less well illuminated
- Giving the impression that good security is practised

Basic lights can be purchased and fitted at little cost. Consideration should be given to:

- Cost effectiveness – different lights (such as halogen versus low-pressure sodium) have varying initial and running costs. Some lights are more suitable for constant illumination whilst others are ideal for combining with passive infrared detectors.
- Reliability and maintenance requirements.
- Statutory requirements regarding light nuisance.
- CCTV systems (where fitted) will need sufficient light to be effective 24 hrs per day.

Lights can be activated by motion sensors or left switched on through the hours of darkness, although studies have shown that a lower level of continual light is more effective as a deterrent than sudden, bright lights.

A good compromise is to use high efficiency, low energy lighting controlled by a photo-electric cell (dusk to dawn switch). This type of light, sited out of reach (say 10ft above ground level) provides ample illumination, with few shadows and costs only a few pounds a year to run – despite it being left on throughout the night.

VEHICLES, PLANT AND MACHINERY

It is important that steps are taken to properly secure any on-site tools, plant or vehicles that could be used to gain access to your fertiliser store or to remove fertiliser without authority.

This should include lifting machinery such as forklifts, 'tele-handlers' or vehicles fitted with hydraulic loading cranes.

Where possible hand-tools and power tools should be kept locked away when not in use and mobile plant and vehicles should be secured and immobilised.

Commercially available 'off the shelf' vehicle immobilisers (electronic or physical) can be very effective and will certainly delay anyone wishing to make use of them in order to force an entry into a secure store.

Vehicle keys should be secured when not in use. Where many keys are in use it is good practice to maintain a key list and routinely check that they can be accounted for.

Consider using heavy agricultural machinery such as buckets, power harrows or other large machines to restrict direct vehicular access to stacks of sheeted fertiliser, particularly if the fertiliser cannot be stored in a secure building or compound.

The National Plant and Equipment Register (www.ter-europe.org) runs an international database of owned and stolen equipment. It employs specialist staff who work with law enforcement agencies to identify and recover stolen equipment. You can register five items for free. Tractors and other agricultural machinery, trailers, caravans, quarry equipment and generators are amongst the most stolen items.

Register your farm machinery at: www.ter-europe.org

GENERAL HOUSEKEEPING

How your premises appear to a casual observer should not be underestimated and may affect whether that observer becomes a potential intruder. Research has shown that properties and businesses which are perceived to be well maintained are significantly less likely to be subject to criminal activity.

Good housekeeping costs little and projects an image of ownership and a sense that the site is cared for. It also significantly increases the chance of identifying something out of place or recent damage that might indicate an attempted or actual intrusion.

Buildings, fences and other structures should be kept clean and in good repair, maintenance should be carried out promptly, and rubbish and other debris should be cleaned away and removed where possible.

It is a good idea to maintain a list of key phone numbers, such as those of the local police and neighbouring farmers, so that you can quickly contact the appropriate people if the need arises.