



Allenfarm Fence Buyer's Guide





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Choose The Right Fence For You

Choosing the right fence for your home is more than just a practical decision—it's an investment in your privacy, security, and the way your property looks. Whether you want to enhance your home's exterior, secure your backyard, or create a private space for your family, knowing what options are available is essential. It can greatly affect your satisfaction and spending.

This guide is designed to help homeowners, especially those new to fencing, understand the different types of fences, materials, costs, and rules to consider, ensuring you make a choice that meets your needs and fits your budget



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Reasons for Buying a Fence

Choosing the right fence starts with understanding why you might need one in the first place. Whether it's for privacy, security, or improving your home's curb appeal, each reason helps pinpoint the type of fence that best meets your practical needs and aesthetic preferences.



Privacy

One of the most common reasons for installing a fence is to create a private space. A well-chosen fence can enhance your property's privacy while blocking sightlines from streets or neighbors.

TIP Tall, dense materials like wood or vinyl offer the best privacy.

Security

Fences deter intruders and help secure your property against unauthorized access. They can also protect children and pets by keeping them contained within safe boundaries and deter wildlife and stray animals from entering your yard. Security fences vary in design and size, often depending on the level of security needed.

- Material strength and design are key for security. Durable materials and designs that prevent easy climbing or breaching, such as ornamental steel or tall wood panels, are preferred.
- Include security enhancements like locking gates, finials, or automated driveway gates for higher security needs. Automated driveway gates provide a convenient way to both control and monitor who has access to your property. They also offer an element of prestige for those with more refined tastes.

Aesthetic Appeal

Fences can dramatically improve the curb appeal of your property. They come in various styles and materials, each adding a unique charm and character to your home. Whether you prefer the rustic look of a wooden fence or the sleek, modern appeal of ornamental steel, the right fence can enhance the architectural style of your home.

- Choose materials and styles that complement the architectural style of your home. Consistency in style can significantly enhance curb appeal.
- Consider the landscape design and how the fence will integrate with existing or planned elements like gardens, patios, or driveways.

Safety

Fences are crucial for safety in homes with outdoor features like swimming pools, ponds, retaining walls, or cliff edges. They help prevent accidental falls and ensure that children and pets can play outside while reducing the risk of wandering into dangerous areas.

- For pool fencing, ensure materials and designs meet legal safety standards that prevent accidental access by children and pets.
- Durable and robust materials should be used in play areas to withstand rough play and harsh weather conditions.
- For strong security, fences made from materials like steel or tall wooden panels are ideal.
- Ornamental steel, for example, offers both strength and aesthetic appeal, while tall wood panels prevent easy climbing. If your concern is keeping pets and children safe or deterring intruders, you might also want to consider adding locking gates or even an automated driveway gate for extra control.

DID YOU KNOW? *Pool fencing is required by law in Maine, with specific rules for height and gate mechanisms.*

Noise Reduction

Particularly in urban or suburban areas, regular privacy fences can provide some barrier against street noise. Fencing specifically designed and tested to reduce noise levels is a better option when noise reduction is a primary objective. The high-end Bufftech molded vinyl line has such ratings as an example. There are additional specially designed options available in the marketplace.

- The height of the fence should be proportional to the noise source; higher fences are more effective against road-level noise.

Boundary Definition

Fences clearly delineate your property lines, which is important for avoiding disputes with neighbors. They define the space that legally belongs to you, which can be particularly useful in areas where boundaries are otherwise unclear.

- Ensure accurate property surveys are conducted before installation to prevent disputes and encroachments.
- Choose distinctive but neighbor-friendly designs that clearly mark boundaries without causing visual obstruction or disputes.
- When replacing an existing fence located on a property boundary, it is important to confirm that abutting property owners agree as to who actually owns / is responsible for the fence.

Increase Property Value

Installing a well-designed fence can increase the resale value of your home. Prospective buyers often view a good fence as a benefit, reducing their future maintenance and enhancing the usability of the yard.

- Invest in high-quality materials and professional installation to ensure longevity and enhanced appeal, which contribute to property value.
- Consider future maintenance costs and ease of repair and access to replacement parts (i.e., green vs. black chain link or white vs. color vinyl) when selecting materials to ensure the fence remains an asset rather than a liability.
- Increased buyer interest with a fence installed already to contain a pet or protect a pool rather than buying a home without one.

Wind Shielding

In areas with strong winds, a solid fence can act as a windbreak, protecting your garden and outdoor areas from damage. It can also increase comfort by reducing wind speed on your property.

- The fence's design should allow for some airflow to reduce wind force while still providing effective protection for specific areas.
- Placement relative to wind patterns and protected areas can maximize effectiveness and reduce wear on the fence.
- Quality materials, fence design, and installation technique are critical determinants of how well a fence will stand up to strong wind load.

Regulatory Compliance

In many regions, local laws or homeowners' association rules may require fencing around certain features such as pools or backyard ponds. Installing the appropriate fencing ensures compliance with these regulations, avoiding potential legal issues.

- Check local zoning laws and HOA rules for specific fencing requirements regarding height, materials, and placement.
- Obtain necessary permits and approvals before installation to ensure compliance and avoid legal issues. The property owner is responsible for understanding permitting requirements and attaining those permits.
- Some municipalities have fence height restrictions.
- State-maintained roads and most town-maintained roads will have a location restriction within a specific distance from the road centerline.



Types of Fences and Cost

Allenfarm Fence offers a variety of fencing options to meet your needs. Each type balances cost, durability, and function. This section explores the types of fences provided by Allenfarm Fence, starting from the most budget-friendly options to the pricier choices. The cost ranges mentioned are based on average projects, and actual quotes may vary within these ranges or change based on a variety of factors.



QUICK LOOK? Use the infographic to compare price, maintenance, and privacy levels.

Fence Types at a Glance

Our comparison chart summarizes all you need to know about different fence types:

- **Price Range:** Costs for 200 linear feet with a walk gate included.
- **Durability & Maintenance:** Get an idea of how long each fence lasts and what upkeep is required.
- **Privacy Level & Best Uses:** Quickly find out which fence suits your specific needs, from privacy to security.

Fence Type	Durability (Years)	Maintenance Level	Privacy Level	Best For
4' H Chainlink (Galvanized)	15 - 20	Low	Low	Budget, Boundaries
5' H Chainlink (Galvanized)	15 - 20	Low	Low	Budget, Boundaries
6' H Chainlink (Galvanized)	15 - 20	Low	Low	Budget, Boundaries
4' H Black Chainlink	15 - 20	Low	Low	Budget, Aesthetics
5' H Black Chainlink	15 - 20	Low	Low	Budget, Aesthetics
6' H Black Chainlink	15 - 20	Low	Low	Budget, Aesthetics
8' H Black Deer Fence	15 - 20	Medium	Medium	Wildlife Control
6' H Spruce Stockade	15 - 20	High	High	Short-Term Privacy
6' H Cedar Stockade	15 - 20	Medium	Medium	Natural Look, Privacy

8' H Spruce Stockade	15 - 20	High	High	Short-Term Privacy
8' H Cedar Stockade	15 - 20	High	High	Natural Look, Privacy
2-Rail Post and Rail	15 - 20	Low	Low	Marking Boundaries
2-Rail Post and Rail with Welded Wire	15 - 20	Low	Low	Marking Boundaries, Pets
3-Rail Post and Rail	15 - 20	Low	Low	Marking Boundaries
3-Rail Post and Rail with Welded Wire	15 - 20	Low	Low	Boundaries, Pets
4' H Cedar Spaced Picket	10 - 15	Medium	Medium	Classic Look, Gardens
Vinyl Picket (White) 4' H	20 - 30	Very Low	Medium	Low Maintenance, Style
Vinyl Picket (White) 6' H	20 - 30	Very Low	Medium	Low Maintenance, Style
Vinyl Privacy 6' H Newbury	20 - 30	Very Low	High	Long-Term Privacy
Vinyl Privacy 6' H Newbury LX Timbergrain	20 - 30	Very Low	High	Long-Term Privacy
4' H Ornamental Steel	20 - 30	Low	Medium	Style
5' H Ornamental Steel	20 - 30	Low	Medium	Style
6' H Ornamental Steel	20 - 30	Low	Medium	Security, Style
6' H Custom Cedar Board Privacy with Steel Posts	20 - 25	Medium	High	Custom Privacy, Durability
6' H Good Neighbor with Wood Post Boxes	20 - 25	Medium	High	High-End Privacy, Aesthetic
6' H Custom Cedar with Steel Posts	Varies	Varies	High	Custom Designs
Wrought Iron (Authentic)	Varies	Varies	High	Authentic Look, Custom
Automated Driveway Gates	20 - 30	Medium	High	Security, Prestige

(Feb 2026)

Ready to Find the Perfect Fence for Your Maine Property?

[Contact us](#) for a free consultation—our team is here to help you choose the ideal fence for your property.

Reasons a Fence Quote May Be Higher Than Average

Understanding what affects the cost of your fence project will help you plan your budget and avoid surprises. Key factors include:

- **Site Preparation:** Removing old fences, clearing land, or dealing with uneven terrain can add costs.
- **Material Choices:** High-end materials like custom cedar or wrought iron will increase overall expenses.
- **Property Characteristics:** Larger yards or sloped areas require more labor and materials.
- **Permits & Regulations:** Compliance with local codes or HOA rules may require additional fees.
- **Dealing with Large Rocks or Ledges:** If a large rock prevents reaching the ideal depth, removing the rock or securing the post with hydraulic cement in a drilled hole is crucial. This is often considered a “hard-dig” and may incur additional costs like \$100 per hard-dig hole.
- **Seasonal Demand:** Pricing and wait times often increase during peak installation seasons.

BUDGET TIP Chain-link and spruce stockade are great budget-friendly options.

Choosing the Right Material

Selecting the right material is crucial when installing a new fence as it impacts everything from the appearance and durability of your fence to its maintenance needs and cost-effectiveness. Let's take a look at the key factors you should consider to help you choose a material that fits both your needs and your style.



TIP Cedar's natural rot resistance makes it ideal for long-lasting wooden fences.

Climate Adaptability

- Choose materials that are designed to withstand the specific conditions of your local climate. For example, aluminum or vinyl are excellent choices for humid or coastal regions as they resist corrosion and moisture-related damage.
- In areas with severe weather conditions such as heavy snow, frost, or high winds, opt for sturdy materials like wood or heavy-duty vinyl that can withstand these forces without deteriorating or requiring frequent repairs.
- Longevity and Maintenance
- Vinyl requires little maintenance over its lifespan, does not need painting or staining, and is resistant to rot, insects, and fading.
- Naturally aged wood may offer a natural and traditional aesthetic. While we encourage this, some customers prefer periodic staining or painting to maintain its look and integrity. The down side of staining and painting is you have to keep up with it, or it will look worse over time if not regularly re-stained/painted. Cedar and redwood offer natural rot resistance but come at a higher cost.
- Snowplowing and falling trees or limbs can create damage that can impact longevity. To enhance durability, consider positioning the fence line away from where snow will be pushed up against it and assess nearby trees for potential hazards prior to installation.

Cost-Effectiveness

- Evaluate the upfront cost versus long-term maintenance costs. Materials like ornamental iron or high-quality vinyl might have higher initial costs but lower maintenance expenses and longer lifespans, making them more cost-effective over time.
- Consider the total lifetime cost of the fence, including maintenance, repairs, and potential replacement needs. Cheaper materials might require more frequent replacements, ultimately costing more in the long run.

Aesthetic Appeal

- Material choice should complement the home's exterior and landscape design. For instance, ornamental iron works well with formal traditional landscapes, while horizontal wood planks might suit modern architectural styles better. At Allenfarm fence, we can service existing ornamental iron, but the product we typically install is steel.
- Colors and finishes should also be considered, as some materials offer a wide range of options to match or contrast with the home's color scheme.

Security Features

- For high-security needs, materials such as wrought iron or steel are preferable due to their strength and durability, making them difficult to breach.
- Consider the design implications of security-focused materials, ensuring they integrate well with aesthetic needs while providing the necessary protection.



Maintenance and Durability

Proper maintenance extends the life of your fence and ensures it continues to perform and look its best. Here's how to care for the most common fencing materials:



Wood

- **Upkeep Requirements:** Wood fences require periodic maintenance to preserve their appearance and prevent damage. Inspect your fence annually for signs of warping, rotting, or insect damage.
- **Staining and Sealing:** Apply a protective stain or sealant every 2-3 years to shield against moisture and UV rays, especially in Maine's humid summers and snowy winters.
- **Longevity Tips:** Choose naturally rot-resistant woods like cedar or redwood for added durability and reduced upkeep. Replace damaged boards promptly to prevent further deterioration.

Vinyl

- **Upkeep Requirements:** Vinyl fences are low-maintenance and can retain their appearance for years with minimal effort.
- **Cleaning:** Wash your vinyl fence with a garden hose and mild soap every few months to remove dirt, mold, and mildew.
- **Longevity Tips:** High-quality vinyl is less prone to cracking in Maine's cold winters. Look for UV-resistant options to prevent fading.

Metal (Steel, Aluminum, Wrought Iron)

- **Upkeep Requirements:** Metal fences are highly durable but need some attention to prevent rust and corrosion, especially in coastal or humid areas.
- **Rust Prevention:** Apply a rust-proof coating or paint every few years, focusing on welds, joints, and exposed areas.
- **Cleaning:** Use a soft brush and soapy water to remove dirt and grime. Inspect for scratches or chips that could expose the metal to moisture.
- **Longevity Tips:** Aluminum fences resist rust naturally, making them a great choice for low-maintenance, long-lasting protection.

Chain-Link

- **Upkeep Requirements:** Chain-link fences are tough and low-maintenance, but they benefit from occasional cleaning and rust prevention.
- **Cleaning:** Spray the fence with a hose and scrub with soapy water to remove buildup.
- **Longevity Tips:** Opt for galvanized or PVC-coated chain-link to minimize rust and ensure a polished appearance.

General Maintenance Advice:

- **Seasonal Checks:** Maine's weather can be tough on fences. Inspect for damage after heavy snow, ice storms, or strong winds.
- **Snow Management:** Avoid piling snow against your fence during shoveling or plowing, as it can warp or weaken the structure.
- **Nearby Vegetation:** Trim back overhanging branches and vines to prevent unnecessary wear and tear on your fence.

By investing time in maintenance, you'll not only extend your fence's lifespan but also maintain its functionality and curb appeal for years to come.

What You Need to Know About Fence Installation Techniques

When it comes to building a fence that lasts, the installation process is just as important as the materials you choose. A proper installation ensures durability, prevents costly repairs, and gives you peace of mind. Here's what you, as a homeowner, need to understand about fence installation techniques—and why they matter.

How Climate Affects Installation

- **Maine's Cold Winters:** Frost heave can cause shallow posts to shift, leading to wobbly or leaning fences. To combat this, posts must be installed below the frost line (at least 3-4 feet deep).
- **What This Means for You:** Proper post depth means your fence will stay sturdy through freezing temperatures and seasonal changes.

QUICK TIP *Always confirm your installer sets posts deep enough to prevent frost-related shifting.*

Dealing With Rocky or Uneven Ground

- **The Challenge:** Maine's rocky soil can make digging for posts difficult. If a large rock is in the way, it must be removed or worked around using methods like hydraulic cement.
- **Why It Matters:** Poor handling of tough terrain can compromise your fence's foundation, causing it to lean or weaken over time.

QUICK TIP *Ask if your quote includes "hard-dig" conditions—this could add costs but ensures a more secure fence.*

Modern Installation Techniques

- **Steel Pipe Method:** This involves driving a steel pipe into the ground and placing the post over it, creating a more stable foundation that resists shifting caused by frost or soil movement.
- **Why It Matters:** Whether you're installing wood, vinyl, or ornamental fences, this method increases durability and reduces long-term maintenance.

QUICK TIP *If you live in an area with freeze/thaw cycles, ask about advanced methods like the steel pipe system for added durability.*

Material-Specific Installation

- **Wood Fences:** Reinforcing wooden posts with steel can prevent cracking or warping.
- **Vinyl Fences:** Specialized clips keep vinyl posts secure and prevent gaps or leaning over time.
- **Chain Link Fences:** Proper handling of corners and grade changes ensures no sagging or slack in the fabric.

QUICK TIP *Ensure your fence installer uses techniques tailored to the material you've chosen for better performance.*

The Importance of Quality Posts

- **Post Material:** Using higher-grade steel posts (like SS40 instead of SS15) ensures your fence can handle heavy winds or weather.
- **Post Spacing:** Reducing the distance between posts provides better support for the fence and improves overall stability.

QUICK TIP *Thicker, stronger posts are worth the investment—they mean your fence is less likely to sag or shift over time.*

Warranty Information

Allenfarm offers a general one-year warranty on all installation work. Coverage is provided under the manufacturer’s warranty for the materials used in your fence.



Below is a detailed table outlining the specifics of what each manufacturer’s warranty covers as of April 2024:

Products	Manufacturers	Material	Labor
Chain Link Fabric (galvanized, aluminized, PVC coated)	Stephens Pipe and Steel (SPS)	15 Year Limited	1 Year
Galvanized SPS 15 & SPS 20 Posts	Stephens Pipe and Steel (SPS)	10 Year Limited	1 Year
Galvanized SPS 40 Posts	Stephens Pipe and Steel (SPS)	12 Year Limited	1 Year
Catalyst Fence Solutions	OldcastleAPG	Single Family Residence-Limited Lifetime	1 Year
		Other Property Types-30 Year Limited	1 Year
Montage Residential Ornamental Steel	Ameristar-Assa Abloy	Limited Lifetime or (5 Year prorated within 1 mile of salt-water coastline)	1 Year
Montage Commercial Ornamental Steel	Ameristar-Assa Abloy	20 Year Limited or (5 Year prorated within 1 mile of salt-water coastline)	1 Year
Wood Products – (cedar, spruce, other)	varies	none	1 Year
Automated Gate Operator	Doorking (DKS)	2 – 5 Year Limited depending on model	1 Year

(May 2025)

Legal or Regulatory Considerations

Understanding and complying with local zoning laws, building codes, and homeowner association (HOA) guidelines is critical when installing a new fence. These regulations can affect various aspects of fence installation, including its height, style, materials, and placement. Here's what homeowners should consider:



Underground Utilities

- **Installer's Responsibility:** It is important that the installer applies for and secures a dig-safe ticket prior to commencing work to prevent costly damage and dangerous conditions for their workers and the general public.
- **Homeowner's Responsibility:** The property owner needs to know and identify for the installer privately owned utilities such as septic tanks, leach fields, well casings, underground power running from the electrical meter to the house or out to a shed, propane lines, lawn irrigation lines, etc.

Zoning Laws

- Zoning regulations can vary significantly from one municipality to another. They typically dictate the height and sometimes the material of fences, especially in front yards or corner lots. For example, some areas may restrict front yard fences to a maximum height of 4 feet.
- In some cases, zoning laws may also regulate how far a fence must be set back from property lines and public roads. This is particularly important to consider for corner properties where visibility could be a concern.

Homeowner Association Guidelines

- If your home is part of a community governed by a homeowner's association, there will likely be additional rules regarding fence installations. HOA guidelines often include restrictions on the type of materials you can use, colors, and even specific styles to maintain a uniform community aesthetic.
- It's important to obtain approval from your HOA before proceeding with a fence installation to avoid potential disputes or the need to modify or remove an unauthorized fence.

Building Permits

- Many localities require a building permit before installing a fence. The permit process may involve submitting detailed plans and specifications for the fence and sometimes even a survey of your property.
- Failure to obtain a necessary permit can result in fines, legal action, or the requirement to dismantle the fence, so it's crucial to check with your local building department before beginning construction.
- The homeowner is responsible for acquiring required permits.

Visibility and Access

- In many areas, regulations ensure that fences do not block sightlines for drivers at intersections. This means there may be restrictions on the height and type of fence you can install within a certain distance from street corners.
- Accessibility considerations, such as ensuring gates are wide enough and accessible, might also be regulated, particularly in urban areas.

Historical Districts

- Properties located in historical districts may have stringent guidelines aimed at preserving the historical character of the area. This might limit your choice of fencing materials and require that the design be in keeping with the historical context of the neighborhood.

Local Permitting and Surveying

Navigating local permitting requirements and ensuring accurate land surveying are key steps in the fence installation process. These measures are necessary to ensure legal compliance and to avoid potential disputes over property boundaries. Here's what homeowners need to know:



Local Permitting

- **Understanding Requirements:** Before installing a fence, it's important to check with your local city or county government to understand the specific permitting requirements. This may include size, type, and location restrictions.
- **Process of Obtaining Permits:** Typically, obtaining a permit involves submitting a fence plan that includes details such as height, materials, and the location relative to property lines. Some municipalities may require approval from neighbors if the fence exceeds certain heights or setbacks.
- **Why Permits are Important:** Permits ensure that all construction meets local standards for safety and zoning. They help avoid legal issues that can arise from non-compliance, such as being required to tear down the fence or facing fines.
- The homeowner is responsible for acquiring necessary permits and approvals

Professional Land Surveying

- **Importance of Accurate Surveying:** A professional land survey helps determine the exact boundaries of your property. This is crucial before installation to ensure that your fence does not encroach on a neighbor's land, which can lead to disputes and legal challenges.
- **Choosing a Surveyor:** It is advisable to hire a licensed land surveyor to perform this task. The surveyor will mark the boundaries and provide a map that outlines your property lines.
- **Benefits of Surveying:** Besides avoiding disputes, a proper survey can also identify any easements, right-of-ways, or other restrictions that could impact where and how you build your fence.

Compliance with Regulations

- **Adhering to Local Codes:** Beyond the basic permit and survey, ensuring that your fence complies with local building codes and subdivision regulations is crucial. This includes following rules about fence height, materials, and visibility at corners which might affect traffic safety.
- **Historical and Environmental Considerations:** In some areas, additional regulations may protect historical sites or environmental features like wetlands. Compliance with these regulations is necessary to preserve community heritage and natural resources, which might restrict certain types of fencing or require specific materials.

Future Considerations

- **Documentation:** Keep all documents related to permits and surveys. These can be useful for future reference, especially if property disputes arise or if you plan to sell your home.
- **Periodic Reviews:** Regulations can change, so it's good practice to review local fence laws periodically, especially before making any modifications or repairs to your existing fence.

Seasonal Demand and Lead Times in Maine

TIMING TIP *Winter installations may help you beat the rush and secure faster turnaround times.*

Planning ahead is key to avoiding delays, especially in Maine's unpredictable climate:

- **Peak Season:** Summer is the busiest time for fence installations, so book early to secure your spot.
- **Off-Peak Installation:** Spring and fall often offer shorter wait times, and winter installations can sometimes beat the rush.
- **Material Availability:** Custom or premium materials may have longer lead times—order early to avoid delays.
- **Scheduling Delays:** Personnel shortages, injuries, project overruns, and change orders all contribute to delays in the schedule.

Don't wait for peak season—schedule your installation now to avoid delays. [Contact us](#) to get started!

Quick Takeaways

Here's a recap to help you make the best choice:

- **Need privacy?** Choose tall, dense fences like **wood** or **vinyl** for the best coverage.
- **On a budget?** Opt for **chain-link** fencing, which is affordable, durable, and customizable.
- **Value curb appeal?** Materials like cedar or **ornamental steel** add beauty and style.
- **Low maintenance?** Pick **vinyl** or **metal**, which require little upkeep and are weather-resistant.
- **Secure your property?** Install **ornamental steel** or tall wooden panels for strength and safety.
- **Beat the rush!** Plan your installation for **winter or spring** to avoid peak-season delays and higher costs.

Ready to Build Your Maine Fence?

With over 30 years of experience, we've helped homeowners and businesses across Maine—from Portland to Bangor—find their perfect fencing solutions. Let us guide you from selection to installation.

Contact us today at 207-848-0770 or use our online form for a free consultation. Let's build the perfect fence for your property!

[Get a Quote](#)



We're Here To Help

Choosing the right fence for your property is a decision that goes beyond simple aesthetics; it involves careful consideration of your needs for privacy, security, durability, and compliance with local regulations. Whether you are enhancing the beauty of your home, securing a safe play area for children and pets, or simply defining property boundaries, the right fence can make all the difference.

Don't navigate the fencing process alone. Reach out to the experts at Allenfarm Fence Company today to discuss your fencing needs. Whether you're just starting to plan or are ready to begin installation, we're here to help every step of the way.

Contact us at 207-848-0770 or use our [online form](#) to see how we can assist you in making the best choice for your property.