

FABULOUS FENCING

One of the most sought after features for aspiring horse property owners is that stunning black or white post and rail fencing that not only frames a property, but provides the safest method of containment. It's a case of good looks meets necessity.

Like any installation though, unless money is no object, it needs to form part of the planning budget and until now, there has been a maintenance component attached, whether it's rotting, snapping, warping or painting. An Australian company has now come up with a world beating innovation that began as a solution for vineyards looking to avoid the leaching into the soil and eventual rotting of chemically treated timbers. And, it has used a masterstroke of organically certified recycling to produce a product that can be tailored to individual needs. Woodshield Timber encases natural, untreated timber in recycled plastic sourced from agricultural uses such as irrigation piping or dripper tubes.

The disposal of treated pine has become a major issue, with costs now associated with the dumping of it and hefty fines in most states for anyone caught burning it. Treated timbers are also no longer to be used in public spaces such as schools or parks. The fact that the new product has a tested life of 50 plus years also allows for the plastic coating to be recycled again. It is this infinite recycling aspect of a generally non-biodegradable product that has gained it the honour of being the only organically certified fencing material in Australia and New Zealand.

Woodshield Timber's Sales Manager, Ashley Davidson, said extensive testing had been done for equine applications, including at major show jumping clubs for not only fencing, but for jumps that don't rot when subjected to everything from the harsh Australian sun to the coldest and wettest winters. Jump rails can be left on the ground. "Most people want the looks, but they also want what lasts and is safe for their horses," Ashley says. The product is also adaptable and can be used for arena fencing or round yards. Horses are notorious for chewing fence posts, but testing on this product has shown that they can't get a grip on the smooth surface.



The product is also pest-resistant and has a breaking force of 40 to 50 per cent greater than standard treated pine. But, it is the versatility of the product that can cater for a wide range of budgets. Ashley says that the first step when fencing a horse property in this way is to plan what you want to do in regard to paddock layouts for your individual needs. Then price what suits your budget. The product can carry electrified wire or tape. Some people may do one part of the property and then add to it as the budget allows. Others install the posts with hot wiring to start with and then add the rails later. Once preferred paddock layouts are planned, they can be done one at a time if that's the preference. Even suburban fencing and landscaping is catered for and it can be a do-yourself-project for those with fencing knowledge or it can be installed Australia-wide. No special nails or screws are required. "It comes down to the individual specifying what their particular needs are and that can be catered for whether they're a large racing stud or someone just starting on a property," Ashley says. Further information: www.woodshield.com.au

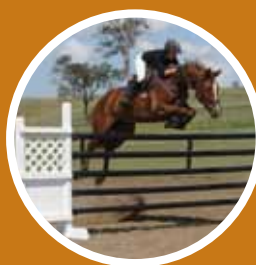


WOODSHIELD

The Premier Coated Timber Posts

The Post that does not rust or rot!
Untreated timber encased in recycled plastic

- ⦿ Long life span - 10 year manufacturing warranty
- ⦿ Standard fasteners apply - Can be knocked or rammed
- ⦿ Fencing, arenas, yards, tie up posts, jump rails
- ⦿ Easy handling - Safe and smooth so no splinters, cracks or broken timber
- ⦿ Weather resistant - NO rot - NO termites - completely sealed from the environment & chemical free
- ⦿ The rigidity and strength of wood, with the toughness & resilience of plastic



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