

paint a timber fence

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PAINT RIGHT

Repaint the fence

The fence is often the least loved part of the house, but a nicely painted fence can make a home look great and will add to the value too. Painting the fence is a nice social event (all those pedestrians walking by to talk to) and gets you out in the fresh air.

Decisions, decisions

There's a huge range of fence finishes and colours to choose from. You'll want an exterior paint. Don't skimp on the quality or you'll be painting it again in three years. Your PaintRight professional can advise you on the right paint for your job. The colour is up to you, but you'll probably want a scheme that matches or compliments the house. The fence is the first thing you see when looking at a house so you want to make a good impression. Ask any real estate agent - a nice front fence adds greatly to the value of a property.



Now take a good hard look at the surface. If it's mostly sound with the odd rough or worn patch – which is typical of a fence with a few years wear – then follow this procedure. First, use a wire brush to remove any flaky section or dirt. Then sand back any rough or chipped areas. Apply primer to those areas where you had to clean back to bare wood. If there's a lot of work to do you might want to consider a sander or a wire brush attachment for a drill.

It's a good idea to discuss preparation with your PaintRight professional. They can advise on the best methods of

Be prepared

The key to any good paint job is preparation and that's even more important when you are dealing with exterior surfaces. First off, make sure the fence is sound.

Remove and replace any rotten boards/pickets. Don't be soft hearted here. If a board is showing any sign of rot, either cut the rotten section off or (easier) replace the whole board or picket. Any rot left behind will quickly get worse under the new paint and may spread. Make sure the nails or screws are all secure and not protruding.

Clear any vegetation that is going to get in the way while you're painting. It's a good idea to clear vegetation away so that the fence will not rot.



New fence, no paint

So you've just built a new fence and you're ready to paint it? Then your job is much easier than repainting an old fence. If your fence is brand new, start with an external primer. Your PaintRight professional can advise you on which one is best for your application.

Apply one liberal coat. Once that is dry, a very light sand to remove any bumps and give the topcoat a better 'key' (means grip) can be applied. Make sure that there are no bare patches or your new paint won't last long. Make sure you allow sufficient time for each coat to dry properly.

You might want to ask your PaintRight professional about tinting the primer. This will make getting the final colour right easier - especially if you are using a strong colour.



Paint the fence

Now the fun begins. Stir your paint thoroughly first to make sure the colour is evenly mixed. You can afford to be a little more generous with your paint application than you might be for inside, but make sure there isn't so much that it causes runs. If you are using more than one colour, always do the light colours first.

Use at least two coats. If you have paint left over or you feel enthusiastic, a third coat will help it last even longer. Your fence will also benefit from some minor maintenance. Keep an eye out for any rotten boards that develop and watch for signs of peeling or chipping as an indication that a repaint is overdue. Being outside, a fence can get dirty, so don't overlook giving it a good clean as a way to keep it beautiful.





Checklist

- Drop Cloths
- Exterior Primer
- A paint stirrer
- Wire brush
- Exterior Paint
- Sandpaper
- Quality brushware

Notes:



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