



Rabbit Proof Fencing

NOTE: This type of fencing is not considered suitable where the fence line will have to be proof against stock as well as rabbits. In these circumstances a rabbit-proofed stock fence should be used. (See specifications for Stockproof fencing).

Materials

Timber, (minimum specifications). All timber to be pressure tanalith treated to BS 4072 round peeled softwood [not spruce] or timber of equivalent strength and durability.

- Straining Posts - 2m x 15cm (7' x 5" to 6") top diameter.
- Struts - 2m x 10cm (7' x 4") top diameter.
- Intermediate Stakes - 1.7m x 6.5cm (5' 6" x 2-3") top diameter, pointed.

Note: Longer stakes may be needed in soft or uneven ground conditions.

Wire all wire to comply to BS 4102. Galvanising to BS 443.

- Line wire - 4 mm (8 swg) plain mild galvanised wire.
- Netting - 1.05m x 32mm 18 swg galvanised rabbit netting.
- Staples - 40 mm (1½") x 4 mm (8 swg) galvanised wire staples.

Method of Erection

Straining Posts are to be dug in to a depth of at least 90cm (3'), properly rammed, firmed (using stones where necessary) and strutted in the line of the fence. Two struts per post should be used on changes in direction except on acute corners of under 90 degrees where a single strut bisecting the angle of turn may be used. Posts to be at a maximum of 100 m (2 nets) intervals and at all changes of direction and sudden changes of gradient (especially at the bottom of dips/hollows).

The point end of the strut should be housed approximately 7.5cm - 10cm (3-4") deep into the straining post at a height of 75cm (30") above ground level. The bottom end to

be dug into the ground and to rest tight on a half stake driven into the ground or a large stone well bedded below ground level.

Intermediate stakes are to be driven into the ground to a minimum depth of 55cm (21") at 2.7m (9') intervals in line with the posts.

Three line wires to be properly strained and attached to the outside of the posts and stakes at 7.5cm (3"), 38cm (15") and 90cm (3') above ground level.

Rabbit netting to be properly strained and stapled to the outside of the posts and stakes with the top of the netting at the same height as the top line wire. The rabbit net is to be clipped to the three line wires using galvanised or zinc clips at a maximum spacing of 90cm (3') along each wire. The bottom 15cm (6") of the rabbit net is to be turned out, i.e. away from the rabbit proof enclosure, and buried. Additional netting should be used in hollows to ensure that 15cm (6") is buried and that the top height of the rabbit netting is not reduced.

Staples must not be driven fully home on the intermediate posts in order to allow future repair and retensioning work. They are to be positioned diagonally to the grain of the wood.

Fencing should not be strained or attached to gate posts or other structures, e.g. post and rail fences, bridge rails etc. Gaps between end straining posts and gate posts or other structures should be stockproofed with tanalised fence rail.

In no circumstances should fencing be strained to, or attached to, trees or shrubs.

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