

# HOW TO PAINT A FENCE



## Tools needed:

- Plant garden ties
- Garden canes
- Sandpaper
- Exterior wood paint primer
- Exterior wood paint preserver
- Exterior paint
- Fence paint brush
- White spirit
- Plastic sheet
- Fence cleaner
- Safety goggles
- Mask
- Ladder
- Protective suit

**IMPORTANT:** All Buildland products are designed for domestic landscaping use only. Products are not designed for use on driveways unless stated. Ensure driveway laying guidelines are followed.

## Step 1:

Firstly, make sure your plants and vegetation are protected by covering them in plastic sheeting. If required trim back any of the foliage to give yourself space to work.

## Step 2:

If any plants are still resting on the fence panels and cannot be covered by plastic sheeting or cut back, then pin them back temporarily using plant ties and canes.

## Step 3:

Start to prepare your fence panels by removing any old nails or screws sticking out of them, any hanging baskets or decorations and any other objects that may be in the way. Then sand down any rough areas or splinters sticking out off the panels to ensure they are as smooth and flat as possible to assure a better finish.

## Step 4:

Apply a layer of primer to all the panels and let it dry completely, this will give a better finish to the final result and increase the life of your paint.

## Step 5:

Next use a large brush to paint the fence panels with your selected colour; use horizontal strokes for horizontal panes of wood, and vertical strokes for vertical panes of wood. Following the direction of the timber grain will give you a better, smoother finish and allow you to get all surface area on show covered much easier.

Apply the paint fairly liberally, making sure there's enough to fully penetrate the timber, while being careful not to leave drips. Start at the top and work your way down – this way you can catch any drips. If your fence is constructed from lap panels, make sure there are no drips escaping down the other side of the fence. Alternatively, you can use a specially designed spray paint or a spray gun which can paint an entire fence in just a few minutes and makes it easier to paint evenly.

## Step 6:

If you're using a sprayer check you haven't missed any areas. Use a brush to make sure you paint the small spaces between panels and posts.

## Step 7:

If required apply a second coat of paint to the panels, but most good quality fence paint generally only need one coat.

## Step 8:

Remove all plastic covering from your plants and vegetation and any temporary plant ties and canes you used. Make sure you wait until the paint has completely dried so that they don't get paint on them as it may be damaging to the plant.

## Step 9:

Clean your brushes as soon as you finish to preserve them for future use. Oil-based paints are thicker than water based, so they require white spirit to clean to make sure all paint traces are removed. Using white spirit will also ensure a better and easier clean up process.

## Safety advice

- Avoid eye splashes by wearing protective goggles and wear a disposable suit to protect your clothing, unless you have old clothes you aren't worried about staining.
- Always wear appropriate gloves making sure they are suitable. For sanding wear tough cloth ones, for water-based paints use impermeable gloves, and for solvent based products use gloves that are solvent-resistant.
- Make sure you wear a dust mask when prepping the fence to prevent inhalation of the dust.
- It may also be necessary to wear a respiratory facemask when using some paint products so always check the recommendations on the packaging.
- Use step ladders safely when painting high areas. Make sure there are no slippery substances at the bottom of the steps. Wear suitable shoes and take care when climbing and working on the ladder.
- If you get wood paint on your skin, wash with warm soapy water straight away and if you get paint in your eye wash with clean, warm water until all the paint is removed.