

Redwood

Fences— Practical Elegance

A fence is one of the hardest working elements of your home. It must be functional—defining space, creating privacy, providing shelter and shade. It must be durable—resistant to pests and able to weather harsh environmental conditions. And it must be beautiful.

A good fence offers elegance and utility. Redwood is the one building material that gives you both.



Designing your Fences

The stability, strength and elegance of redwood make it the logical choice when building a fence; but before you buy any materials or choose a style, decide first what you want the fence to do. Is its primary purpose to mark a property line? Should it be decorative? Does it need gates or planter boxes? Do you want the fence to block wind and sunlight? What mood should it convey—formal or relaxed, restrained or exuberant?

Once you have defined the fence's role, you need to choose the right redwood for the job. Garden grades are probably your best choice. The knotty texture and beautiful color effectively accent the natural setting of a garden. And durable, pest-resistant Deck Heart or Construction Heart are the right grades for posts or portions of the fence close to the ground.

For a highly decorative fence, or where the fence is to match a redwood-sided house, an architectural grade such as Clear All Heart or Heart B may be preferable.

For construction details and step-by-step instructions on how to build a redwood fence, refer to our booklet *Redwood Fences for All Reasons*.



		Heartwood	Sapwood
Architectural Grades	Clear Limited Knots	Clear All Heart Heart B	Clear B Grade
Garden Grades	Knotty	Deck Heart Construction Heart Merchantable Heart	Deck Common Construction Common Merchantable





Choosing the Right Style

Most fences fall under four basic designs.

Lattice: a light and delicate design that can be readily pre-fabricated in a square or rectangular frame which is nailed to supporting posts. Lattice designs can also be incorporated into other fence styles, as in the panel and lattice combination pictured on the front cover.

Picket: usually no more than four feet high and with plenty of air space, picket fences are best used as decorative boundary markers or as a barrier for pets and small children (bottom center of opposite page).

Board-on-Board: an excellent "good-neighbor" fence because it looks the same from both sides (top of opposite page). The flexibility in height and placement of the boards allow for varying degrees of privacy and protection from wind and sun.

Panel: good solid barriers with a limited amount of design flexibility. Alternating panels provide visual variety and interest.

Several other styles are also popular. Post-and-Rail is a good style for long boundary fences. A louvered fence can offer privacy and airflow, and a basketweave pattern produces bold shadow lines.



Nails and Fasteners

Do-it-yourself fence builders should remember to use only stainless steel, aluminum or top-quality hot dipped galvanized nails, bolts and fastenings (electroplated galvanized is not acceptable). Other types of fasteners will corrode when exposed to moisture and will cause unsightly stains on the wood.



Finishing the Redwood

No other wood takes and holds finishes better than redwood. It is one of nature's most maintenance-free building materials. You can leave your redwood fence unfinished, if you like—it will ultimately weather to a soft driftwood gray.

If you choose to protect and/or alter the color of the redwood, it will accept a wide variety of finishes. Varnishes, clear film-forming finishes, oil treatments and "shake and shingle" types of paint are **not** recommended.

Clear Water Repellents with Mildewcide: modify weathering effect, letting color and grain show.

Bleaching or Weathering Stains: low maintenance; gray-toned, natural appearance.

Semitransparent Stains: available in several redwood hues; oil-based stains recommended.

Solid Body Stains: film-forming finishes, available in a wide variety of opaque colors.

Paints: durable and attractive finish for traditional exteriors.



405 Enfronte Drive, Suite 200
Novato, CA 94949
Telephone 415-382-0662
Fax 415-382-8531

Additional Literature

Landscape Architecture
Fences for All Reasons
Redwood Grades and Uses
Exterior Finishes
Deck Construction

Redwood—our renewable resource