

GATES & FENCING...

ADVERTISING FEATURE

Staying safe and secure

One of the consequences of a recession is an increase in domestic crime and burglaries.

The first line of defence against uninvited visitors is security shutters, gates and fencing, but the latter two are usually designed to be aesthetically pleasing rather than to act as an effective barrier.

There are, however, a number of highly-effective security measures that you can use – from stout locks to advanced solutions which only allow entry for permitted vehicles.

These needn't detract from the view, so as well as being an ideal way to safeguard your property and possessions, they can also enhance the visual appearance of your property.

Before erecting fences or gates,

remember that while you may think you can do what you like, that is not the case.

For example, the deeds to your home might say that you must keep the front garden open plan and not erect boundaries, whether they be garden fences, hedges or walls.

So before you make a start, contact your local authority for an update on their rules for garden fences.

Most people opt for wooden fencing, but they do require upkeep if you want it to last.

Maintenance-free vinyl fencing – and decking – is an alternative that means you can just sit back and enjoy your garden and never have to lift a paintbrush. Made of recyclable material, it has an estimated lifetime of more than 50 years.

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