

PaddocksPlus ...fencing & stabling

By Mail:

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Questions and Answers with Chris Coville, Page 1 of 3

You have spent time researching the many fencing options available. You're about to make a considerable investment and you have a vision in mind for the fencing that you would like. However can you actually have your fence of choice on your site?

To date, Paddocks Plus has been involved in a variety of projects from 'shoe string' budgets to large scale facility development. We have learnt that effective fencing includes many variables. Before breaking ground let's consider your answers to the following questions.

The top 12 questions we face with each project!

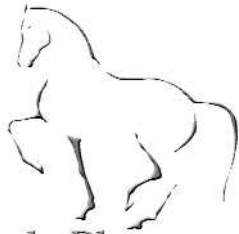
- "What are the physical challenges of your facility? (rock, wetland)
- "Do you have a detailed plan for your farm?
- "Is there enough space for the number of horses you will be caring for?
- "Have you considered adopting a rotational grazing system in order to keep paddocks in better condition?
- "Have you incorporated sacrifice or seasonal paddocks?
- "Do you have well mannered or retired horses used to fencing or younger stock who are not?
- "What is your long term fencing goal? And what are you willing to put up with in the short term to get there?
- "Do you have the depth of soil required for securely setting fence posts?
- "How deep is the soil before you hit bedrock? And how are you going to handle it?
- "What is your budget? Is it realistic?
- "What safety features are you incorporating into your plan?



Regardless of the fence style that you choose, your diligent maintenance on a seasonal and yearly basis makes for good horse-care management. Many products claim low maintenance, safety and ease of installation. Don't be fooled, there are few fences that don't require upkeep and fewer yet that retain their integrity as they are put to the test over time. Remember what it is you're trying to achieve! We want to create a safe environment for our horses. How do we do this?

- "Be aware of what works and what the challenges are in your region.
- "Work with a fencing company that understands your needs.
- "Use suppliers that specialize in the equestrian market.
- "Ask for referrals on product purchases and suppliers.
- "Try to purchase locally thereby ensuring future supply.

Paddocks Plus - Paddled & Doweled Rails; Drivers/Pointed Products and more !
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Questions and Answers with Chris Coville ... continued page 2 of 3

Quality is in the details! With each project and client we understand their needs to be unique. Good fencing always begins with a good plan. At Paddocks Plus our preference is to work with wooden fencing. The strength of this belief has led us to manufacture wooden fencing components that we've found work best in our region.

Here's what we've learnt!

Q: Why choose wood fencing?

A: Historically wood has been the main component of successful containment fencing. Wooden fencing gives you the ability to develop adaptable, secure and visual barrier fences. Given your location you are most likely to find numerous materials readily available. If you are able to purchase locally, then you will be saving money that would otherwise be spent on shipping.



Q: What type of wood should be used?

A: Again try to acquire local materials. Cedar is the most obvious choice for your posts as they are naturally resistant to rot. Rails can vary....we suggest turned cedar rails or hardwood planking.



Q: What about high tensile pvc and coated wire fencing?

A: Take a look at the jobs and existing fences in your area. Do they have the long lasting good looks, safety and low maintenance that were promised? Unfortunately most examples have not lived up to their expectations.

Q: Is there more maintenance with wood?

A: All fencing requires maintenance. Problem fencing begins with poor installation. Wooden fences respond to the environment through expansion and contraction. A well installed and maintained wooden fence will look the same from one season to the next.

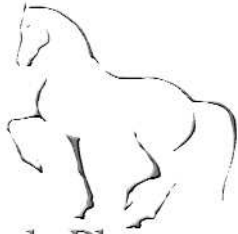
Q: Should we stain or paint our fence?

A: Cedar fencing is usually left to weather to a grey patina. When we build hardwood fences we prefer applications of stain over painting. Recent advancements in stains have reduced the number of necessary re-applications. Stain travels better than paint and maintains its appearance longer. We tend to use black or brown stain. Dark colours are believed to be more visible to horses.

Q: What should we use for hardwood planking?

A: We prefer to work with local hemlock. Most horses dislike the taste of it which aids to reduce cribbing and chewing. The wood is hard enough to require pre drilled holes in order to attach the rails.

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Questions and Answers with Chris Coville ... continued, page 3 of 3

Q: How can we stop our horses from chewing the fence?

A: First of all, establish that the horse is not lacking something in its diet or determine if they are just bored. Companionship often alleviates chewing as will providing adequate forage. We recommend a strand of electric be incorporated on each fence installation. It is an inexpensive means of protecting your investment and training horses to respect their fence.



Q: What about using electric fencing?

A: Electric fencing can be a cost effective way to fence large paddocks and turn outs. We dislike high tensile electric due to the possibility of injury to the horse. Our favourite electric fence is electric braid. We find it is a reasonably priced product, visible, installs relatively easily and maintains its integrity.



Q: We have shallow soil and rock on our farm, does this limit our options?

A: More often than not we run into rock when installing fences throughout the Eastern Ontario region. It doesn't necessarily mean that you can't have the fence you want however you will face additional costs. One option is to build your fence above ground as is done with traditional patent fencing. The second is to have professionals who specialize in dealing with fencing in rocky areas. Paddocks Plus has developed a series of products and methods to overcome the 'rock challenge'.

A good plan is the foundation to a good fence. Taking the time now will ensure the success of your project and return on investment. Should you have a question, or input, contact Chris directly at chris@paddocksplus.com

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