



Horse fencing guide



for a
long-term
relationship

For over 100 years we've manufactured the highest quality fence on the market. American-made Red Brand fence provides years of safe confinement and minimal maintenance. That's why it's the preferred fence of those who know quality is worth it in the long run.

Not all fence is horse fence. So Red Brand offers two different styles of horse fence to meet your unique needs as a horse owner.



Square Deal® Keepsafe®

Non-Climb Fence

Square Deal® Non-Climb Fence stands up to the challenge of providing a long-lasting enclosure to keep your horses safe and healthy.

Strong, 2" x 4" steel mesh prevents frightened or fighting horses from stepping through, walking down, or getting over the fence. Plus, it flexes on impact, preventing injury to horse or fence.

Since fence is woven, not welded, it resists being broken or eaten. When properly installed with smooth side inward, Square Deal knots won't cut or damage horses.

Flexibly constructed fence follows the contour of hills or uneven terrain. Once properly stretched, it won't sag or buckle, providing superior strength.

Square Deal Non-Climb Fence is built for years of service with 12-1/2 gauge, galvanized steel line wires, and 10 gauge top and bottom wires that withstand weathering and everyday wear and tear.

Horse Fence

Keepsafe® Horse Fence has closely spaced, 2" x 4" diamond-mesh construction to give it linear strength and springy texture, protecting horses from injury and preventing predators from entering paddocks and pastures.

Keepsafe's durable and protective diamond weave features heavy, twisted horizontal cables, each cable consisting of two wires on 4" spacing from ground to top. Vertical wires, securely wrapped around each horizontal cable, run diagonally to make a diamond pattern and thus form the strongest fence construction known.

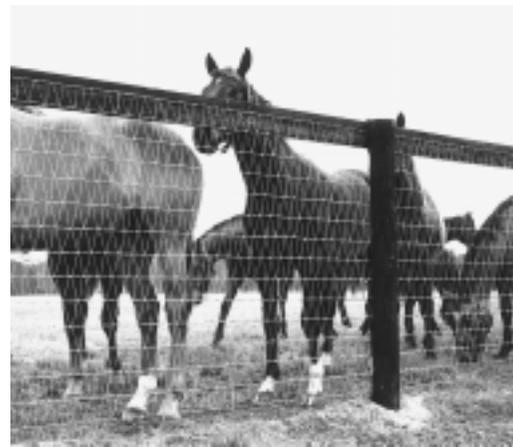
The wire is galvanized to avoid corrosion. The springy texture of the fence allows horses to brush and bump against the surface harmlessly, without damage to delicate coats. The close spacing prevents hooves and legs from catching in the fence and keeps predatory animals from penetrating the barrier.

Design your fence to meet the different needs of your horses.

The following is taken from Michael Plumb's Horse Journal, Nov. 1996.

"Design your fence to contain your most difficult animal, whether it is a pony who could get under a fence or a tall jumper who thinks nothing of a five-foot leap to freedom. A horse is more likely than other animals to be injured on a fence because a horse's flight instinct often outweighs his common sense about confinement."

Planning for horses



Fool-proof fencing

Wires and broken boards can cut a horse, and wood, steel, or concrete fences can cause bruises or broken bones. A good fence has no place where a horse can get a foot or head caught. The bottom of the fence should be at least 1" to 6" from the ground, depending on predator concerns. A good foal fence also has no spaces large enough that a foal can put his head through.

How high is high?

Generally, a 4'6" high fence will discourage horses from jumping over it. If you have side-by-side paddocks, the facing fences should be 5' to 6' in height to discourage horses from reaching over the fences. Ideally, you would fence with alleys separating the horses, which minimizes injuries from horses fighting over fences and cuts down on fence maintenance.

We recommend stallion fencing no shorter than 5' to 6' high. Never pasture stallions in paddocks that share a fence line.

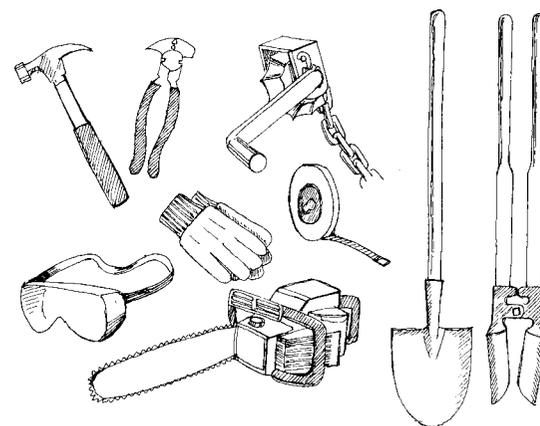
Pastures for mares and foals should be 4' or 5' in height with a 60" top wire, keeping fence close to the ground so foals are unable to roll under the fence.

Stallion pens, breaking pens, and cool-down pens take a lot of abuse. These types of enclosures should be 5' or 6' in height to provide extra strength and security.

Ground rules

Maintaining the good looks and long-lasting protection of Keepsafe® Diamond-Mesh and Square Deal® horse fence depends on their proper installation. Wire mesh fencing is the safe and economical choice for protecting your valuable horses.

When planning the layout of your pastures and paddocks, determine how many separate areas you'll need and the amount of space that is available. Check the terrain and clear the area of obstructions. Plan your fencing borders once the ground is secure.



Tools & materials

Assemble tools

Having the proper tools and supplies on hand will save time and simplify installation. You will need:

- double jack fence stretcher
 - wire splicer
 - post hole digger or driver (manual or hydraulic)
 - spade
 - tamper
 - hammer
 - chain saw
 - rule or steel tape
 - string (minimum 200')
- And, of course, don't forget your safety goggles and gloves.

Select materials

Posts are the cornerstone of long-lasting fence. Choose strong, pressure-treated wood posts that are relatively smooth and apt to splinter. Corner posts should be 9' long by 8" round or square. Line posts should be 7-1/2' to 8' long by 5" to 7" round or square. Faced posts allow stronger installation, but round posts can also be used.

If concrete is necessary for your area or time of year, allow 60 to 80 pounds for each fence post. Plan on using 40 1-1/2" fasteners or staples for each end post and 20 for each line post (available from Keystone Steel & Wire Co.) Twenty lap-type sleeves or gripples for 12-1/2 gauge wire will be needed for each 100' of fence.

Giving the top of the fence a sight line and a finished look will require either 1 x 6 top boards, barbless cable, or PVC or metal pipe.

1/2 mile or 160 rods	160 ACRES requires 2 miles or 640 rods of fence to enclose
1/4 mile or 80 rods	80 ACRES requires 1-1/2 miles or 480 rods of fence to enclose
1/4 mile or 80 rods	20 ACRES requires 3/4 mile or 240 rods of fence to enclose
1/4 mile or 80 rods	40 ACRES requires 1 mile or 320 rods of fence to enclose
1/2 mile or 160 rods	10 ACRES 2.5
3/8 mile or 120 rods	5 ACRES 1.25

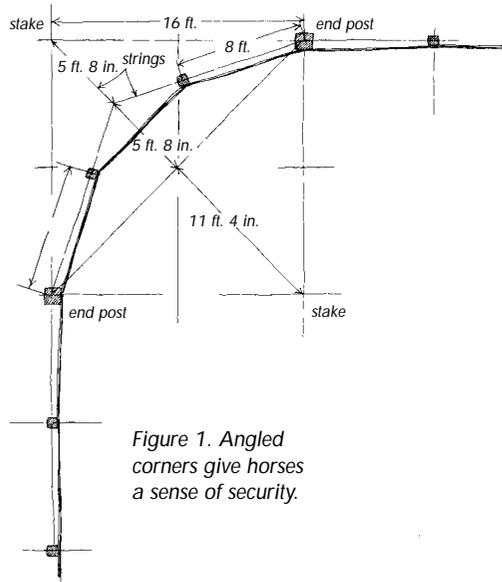
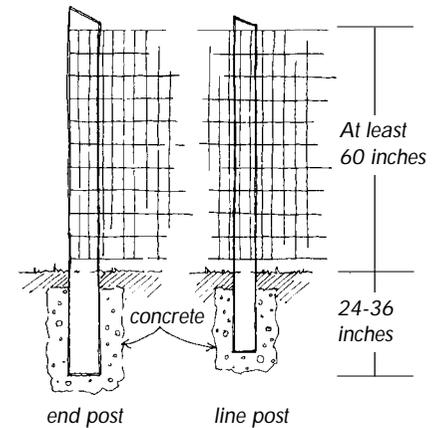


Figure 1. Angled corners give horses a sense of security.

Figure 2. Set posts in concrete.



Laying out & setting posts

Acreage guide

Number of rods of fence required to enclose fields of different sizes:

1/4 mile = 1,320' or 80 rods
 1/2 mile = 2,640' or 160 rods
 1 mile = 5,280' or 320 rods

1 rod = 16-1/2'
 10 rods = 165'
 20 rods = 330'

Angled corners

Corners set in at an angle give horses a sense of security. Construct angled corners for your pasture with these steps.

1. Set end post at the end of the original line.
2. Using string, outline a 16' square starting from the end post. Mark with stakes.
3. Set another end post in the opposite corner of the square.
4. Again using the string, draw a diagonal line from post to post. From the midpoint of this line (11' 4"), attach string to the corner of the square. Attach another string from the midpoint of this line (5' 8") to the center of each end post (see fig. 1).
5. Set line posts 7' 10" from the center of each end post.
6. Attach fence to the outside of the end posts and line posts and back to the inside of the first line post in the new direction. The wire pulled against the posts in the corner will increase fence strength.

If square corners are used, line wire should be stapled to the outside of the corner post to achieve proper tension.

Fence post construction

End posts (3-1/2" to 4" deep) and line posts (30") should be sunk or driven into the ground and then reinforced with concrete (see fig. 2). "The type of soil may help you determine how the posts are set. Extremely wet or sandy ground requires posts be set deep in concrete. A freezing climate requires putting posts below the frost line to prevent them from being moved by frozen ground.

"There should be no sharp protrusions such as nails, bolts, or brackets. Generally, the smoother and more visible a fence is, the safer. To prevent horses from pushing fencing off posts, attach fencing material to the inside face of posts." *Michael Plumb's Horse Journal, Nov. 1996*

If the fence line is to be longer than 160', set concrete for pull posts 160' apart to help erect tight wire. Use string to line up the inside of the posts.

Set line posts in 7' 10" intervals, and again line up posts in position and wait until concrete has completely set before you begin attaching fence.

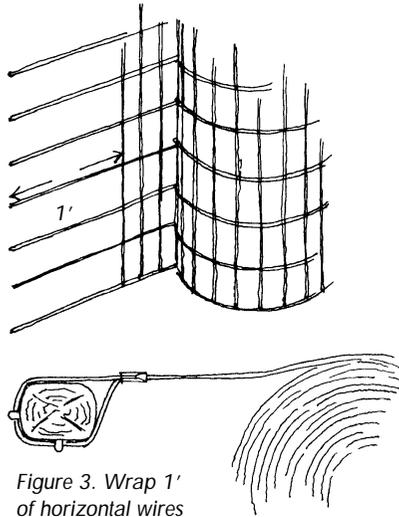


Figure 3. Wrap 1' of horizontal wires around end post.

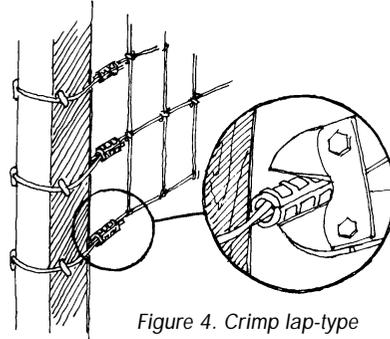
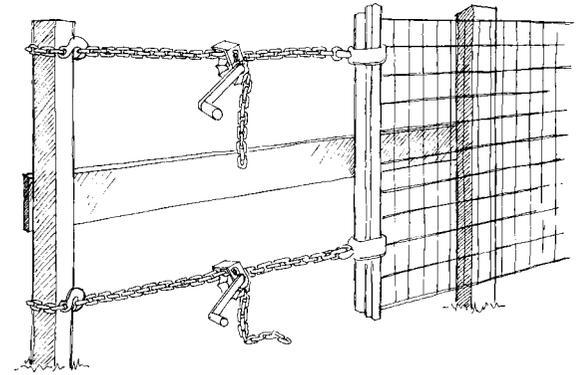


Figure 4. Crimp lap-type sleeves with crimping tool.

Figure 5. Specially constructed to be flexible and gentle on horses, Square Deal Non-Climb and Keepsafe Diamond Mesh fences are strong, but should not be stretched with a truck or car. Stretch fence slowly and carefully.



Installing your fence

Attaching fence

Because of the weight of the rolls, installing horse fence is not a one-person job. Don't try to erect the fence alone. Fence should be attached on the inside of the posts with the smooth side towards the horses. Unroll fence and position it alongside the fence line. Attach fence wires to post using the following steps:

1. Cut vertical wires 1' from the starting end and wrap horizontal wire around the end post (see fig. 3).
2. Staple each line wire diagonally into the outside and inside of the post, making sure that the bottom line wire is no more than 2" above ground.
3. Use fence sleeves or wrap the horizontal wires three or four times around the corresponding wires on the fence line to secure. Crimp with large pliers or crimping tool (see fig. 4).
4. Cut off any protruding ends.

Stretching fence

Use a tractor-adaptable stretcher or hand stretcher to straighten fence between posts. If using a hand stretcher, erect a wood dummy post 4' or 5' past the pull post and secure with a heavy brace. Attach stretcher bar to fence and stretcher chains to dummy post. Stretch fence slowly between the pull post and dummy post, keeping stay wires as vertical as possible. Pull the top and bottom of the fence at an equal rate. During stretching, make sure the fence does not catch on posts or kink (see fig. 5).

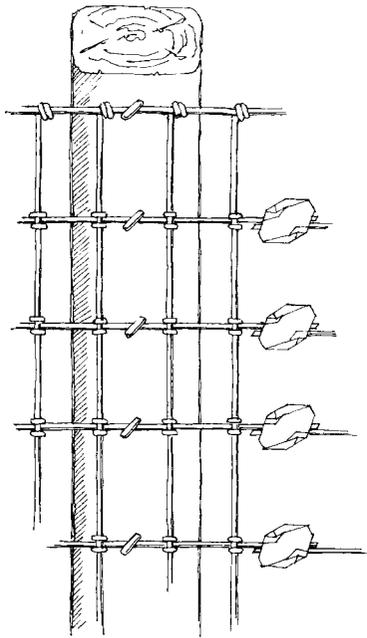


Figure 6.
Staple wires
diagonally.

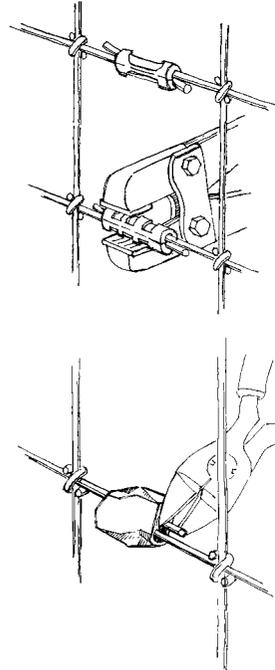
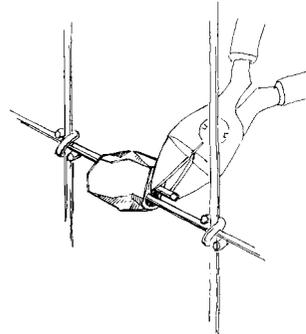
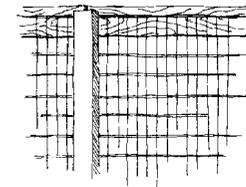


Figure 7. Crimp
lap-type sleeves
with tool to create
a strong splice.

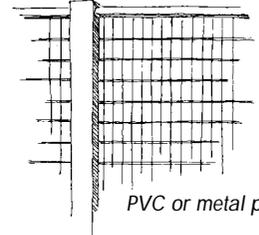


Using Keystone
Grippers and
Gripler tool or
splicing tool makes
spliced joints even
stronger.

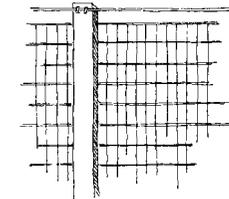
Figure 8.



Top board



PVC or metal pipe



Barbless cable

Crimping and splicing

Before stapling, check that the stay wires are as vertical as possible and the bottom wire is within two inches of the ground.

1. Staple fence line wires to the center of the line posts, one at a time from the bottom up (see fig. 6).
2. Use a claw hammer to crimp fence horizontally and tighten wire. This will allow you to keep the fence level to the ground and maintain proper tension between posts.
3. Attach staples to the pull post, then release stretcher.

4. Position next 10-rod section of wire. Splice wire end together with a lap-type sleeve by cutting all loose vertical wires and inserting horizontal wires into sleeve. Press sleeve tightly to wire with splicing tool (see fig. 7). Or, splice by hand by securely wrapping each set of horizontal wires five or six times. Make sure fence is clear of sharp ends to avoid injury.
5. Attach stretcher to new wire end and repeat stretching procedure for next 165' section of fence.

Topping it off

To give your fence a sight line, choose one of the following:

1. Top boards, 1-1/8" by 6" in 16' lengths, are recommended for your horses' safety and to give your fence a custom-designed look. If boards are installed on the *inside* of the fence, as shown, it may help keep horses from rubbing on the fencing wire.
2. PVC or metal pipe.
3. Barbless cable.

Finish off your Square Deal Horse Fence with a custom-designed look by adding wooden boards to provide a sight line. Sight line boards should be attached to the inside of the posts. Other options for finishing installation include using steel pipe framing or barbless cable as a top wire (see fig. 8).



The most respected name in farm fence®

This guide was developed to help you plan and install enclosures best suited for your horses' safety and unique behavior. If you have questions or suggestions, please give us a call at 1-800-447-6444 or visit our website at www.redbrand.com.

For the location of your nearest Keystone dealer, call 1-800-809-4913 or visit our website.



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