



# NARANGBA TIMBERS

*GUIDE TO DIY*

*FENCING*

*Before you know it, you've built something special!*



## *So, you've decided to build something special?*

*A day spent outside doing some backyard construction with the family can be a fantastic bonding experience - as long as they're ready to get their hands dirty!*

*Depending on the age of your kids, they may not be ready to tackle big DIY work. In this case, give them the easier task of lining the fencing perimeter or preparing the materials. If it's just you and your partner, we'll just let you fight over who's tackling the more difficult jobs...*

*It's time to team up and get your materials ready to build your own DIY fence.*

*This guide to fencing will cover all the steps you need to build something special for you and your family.*







## *Contents*

*Types of fencing*

*Types of timber*

*What materials you'll need*

*Steps*

*Gallery*

*Maintenance tips*



At Narangba Timbers, we have a variety of timber options to cover all your fencing needs.

## Stuck on what fence type to build?

Is your partner set on a traditional picket fence? Perhaps you want to safeguard the beloved family dog with a tall paling fence. Whatever your preference, we have a range of fencing options available to suit your needs.

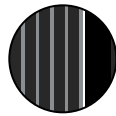
Popular styles of fencing you could try building include:



Horizontal  
slat fence



Lap and  
cap fence



Channel  
fence



Picket  
fence

When considering the different types of fences available, don't forget to take into consideration your budget for materials and building location.

Your choice of timber will depend not just on aesthetics, but also on your durability requirements and how much maintenance you're willing to do after your fence is built.

What materials and the style of fence you choose to build will also depend on the land you're building it on. If there's a slope, consider building a retaining wall to prevent issues like sliding soil. You'll also have to consider various measurements requirements for your panels.

If you're planning to add gates to your fence, be sure to mark where you want them by spray painting lines parallel to the proposed gate placement. Measure and document all gate sizes.



If you already know what kind of timber fence you're going to build, speed up the process using our fencing calculator.



## What kind of timber can I use for fencing?



### SOFTWOOD



Lightweight, robust and cost-effective, majority of Australians use treated pine for the timber fences around their homes.

When using treated pine, ensure that your posts have a H4 rating and your rails have a H3 rating. This will ensure that your fence lasts as long as possible.

As a more affordable fencing option, softwood is less durable than hardwood – but it's much easier to work with and more readily available.

Remember that treated pine is *treated* with chemicals, which means that you should always:

*Wear gloves and masks while sawing.*

*Reseal any cut or sawn surface.*

*Dispose of any off-cuts by burying them. Do not burn them.*



### HARDWOOD



If you prefer natural hardwood for its unique beauty and strength, Narangba Timbers recommends an Australian hardwood, like Merbau or Ironbark.

Hardwood can be more challenging to work with than softwood and is often more expensive, but it's also denser and more durable.

*Choose a hardwood with a high durability rating (like Class 1), and remember to use a wood preservative to treat the sections of the posts that will be underground. Allow the posts to stand overnight in the preservative.*

## What timber shouldn't I use for fencing?



While most types of softwood and hardwood are suitable for fencing, untreated pine is not the best option - despite its affordability and accessibility. This is because untreated pine is more vulnerable to termites and humidity, meaning more long-term maintenance.

*If you're stuck on what type of timber to go for, give us a call on 07 3888 1293. We'll help you select the right materials for your project.*

*For more information about the price of each timber species, visit our website: [NarangbaTimbers.com.au](http://NarangbaTimbers.com.au)*



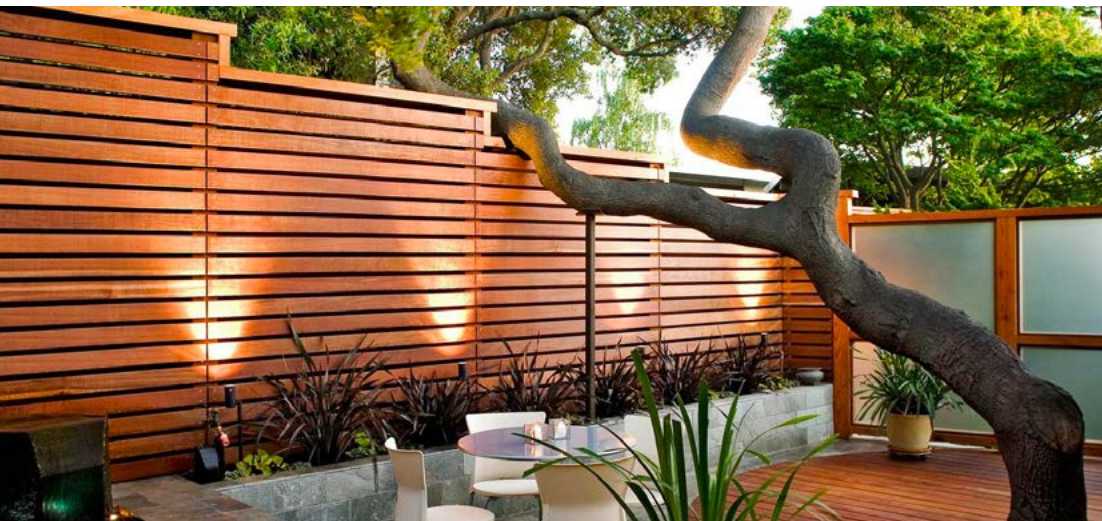
## Purchase Your Materials

Once you've decided what type of fence you'd like to build, here's what you'll need:

- Posts** – use our calculator to find out how much timber you'll need (each post should be at least 100 mm x 75 mm)
- Panels** (Each panel should be at least 75mm x 16 mm)
- Rails** 2 rails for 900 mm and 1,200 mm high panels, or 3 rails for 1,500 mm and 1,800 mm high panels (Each rail should be at least 75 mm x 38 mm)
- Fixing devices** – such as coil nails, nuts and bolts (we recommend hot dipped galvanised)

- String**
- Spray paint**
- Marking stakes**
- Post hole digger or crowbar and shovel**
- Rapid-set concrete mix**
- Water**
- Trowel**

Get it all at NBT!



## *Before building, I have:*

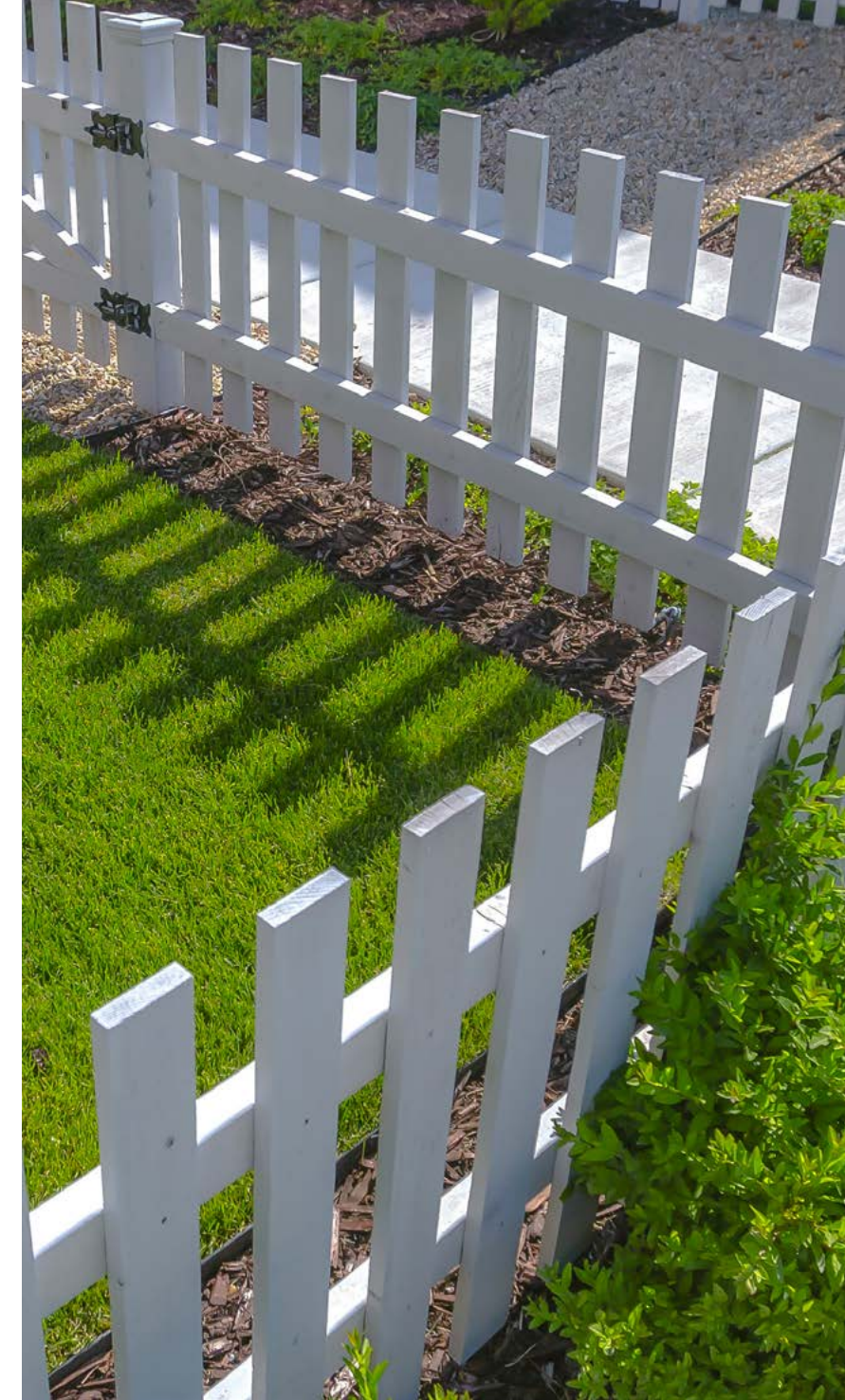
- Checked to see if the fencing line falls within my property boundary*
- Discussed the fencing with my neighbour*
- Consulted any local regulations*
- Contacted any relevant authorities for building permission*

# *Now it's time to build something special!*



### *If you can't pick up the materials, don't worry!*

The great thing about buying your fencing from Narangba Timbers is that we deliver, using our own trucks and staff, to South East Queensland including Brisbane suburbs, Ipswich, and as far as Gympie.





## It's time to build!

We're experts in timber fencing. Our team can help you cut your timber to size, get your rail joints ready and advise on panel styles and profiles.

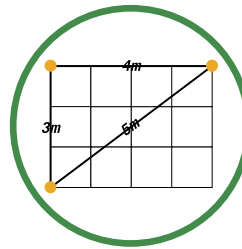
### STEP 1:

## MEASURE OUT YOUR FENCE

1. Outline your proposed fence perimeter with spray paint so that it forms a square.
2. Place a wooden peg at each corner.
3. Use the 3-4-5 rule to ensure your fence layout forms a perfect square.



To do this, measure 3m away from a corner in one direction and 4m in the other direction. The corner is square if the distance across the hypotenuse of this triangle is 5m.



5. Attach string to each adjoining corner peg and run it around your proposed fencing perimeter.

### STEP 2:

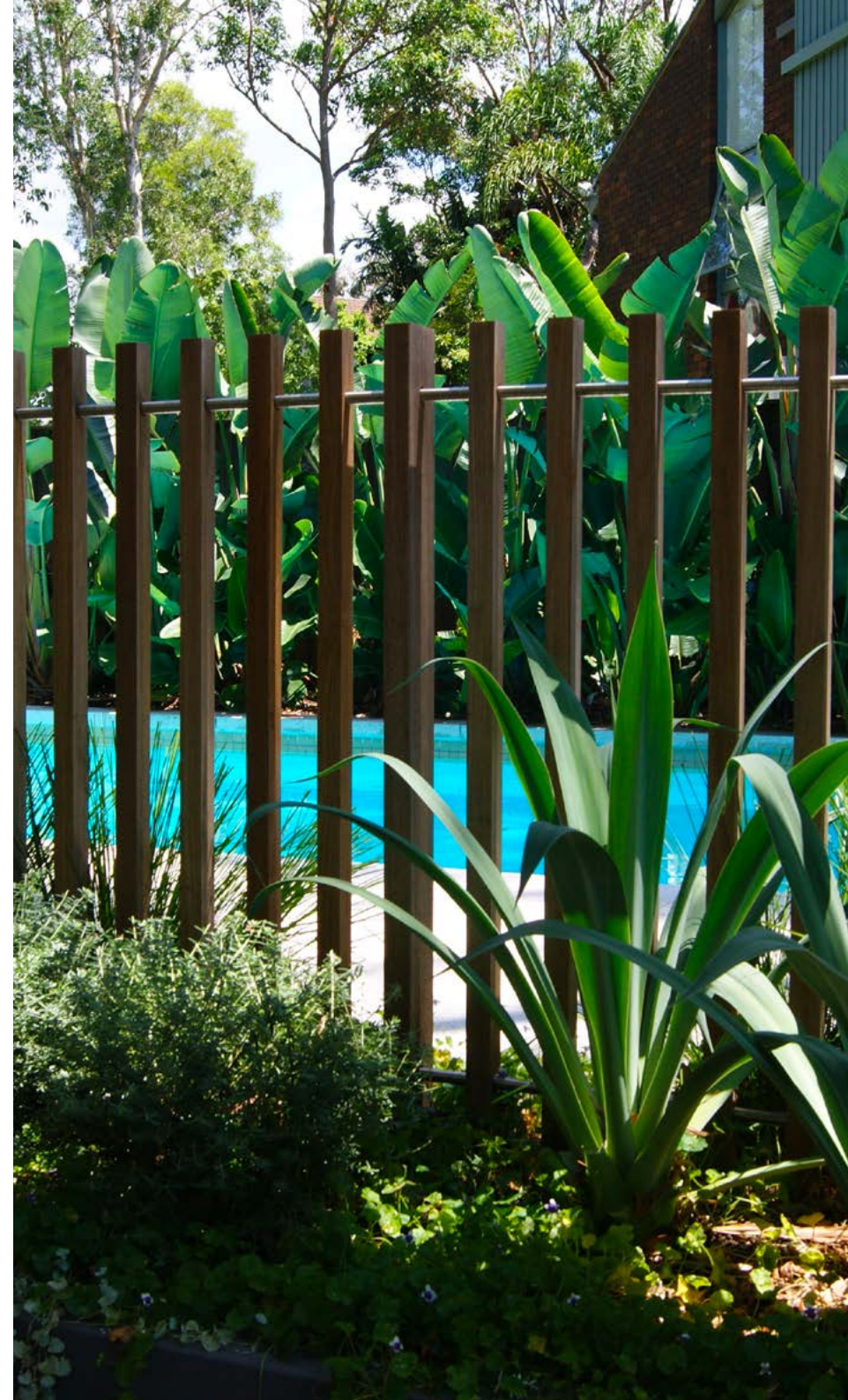
## MARK OUT WHERE POSTS NEED TO GO

Mark where along your perimeter you want to place each post.

Aim to set your posts between 1.8m and 2.4m apart, ensuring that they're equally spaced.

Keep in mind that standard rail lengths are 4.8m, 5.4m and 6m.

*Note: The actual spacing will depend on factors like the type of fence that you're building and the terrain on your property.*







### STEP 3:

## PREPARE TO SET POSTS

Use a post hole digger to dig the post holes about 150mm deeper than the desired depth of the post, to allow space for concrete.



**Remember:**

- For fences up to 1,200mm, the depth should be 450mm.
- For fences between 1,200mm and 1,800mm, the depth should be 600mm.
- Post holes should have a minimum diameter of 300mm.

### STEP 4:

## SET YOUR POSTS

1. Bury the fence posts about one third of their total length into the ground, making sure that the faces of the posts run parallel to the string line.
2. Use a level to ensure a post is vertical before filling in the hole with concrete.

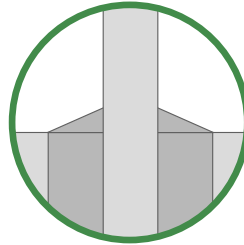




## STEP 5:

### MIX CONCRETE AND FILL

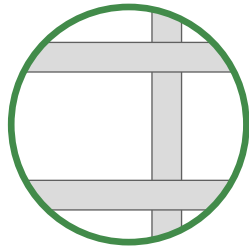
*Note: If you're not familiar with rapid set concrete, you can use a post mix. This will allow you extra time to align the posts accurately.*



1. Add 100mm of coarse gravel to the post holes. This will allow the holes to drain.
2. Fill in the holes with a rapid set concrete mix. This is ideal for setting posts, as the setting time is around 30 minutes.
3. Overfill the hole with concrete and taper the excess down away from the post. This prevents water pooling around the base.

## STEP 6:

### ADD RAILS



Attach top and bottom rails to the fence posts, ensuring that they're level.



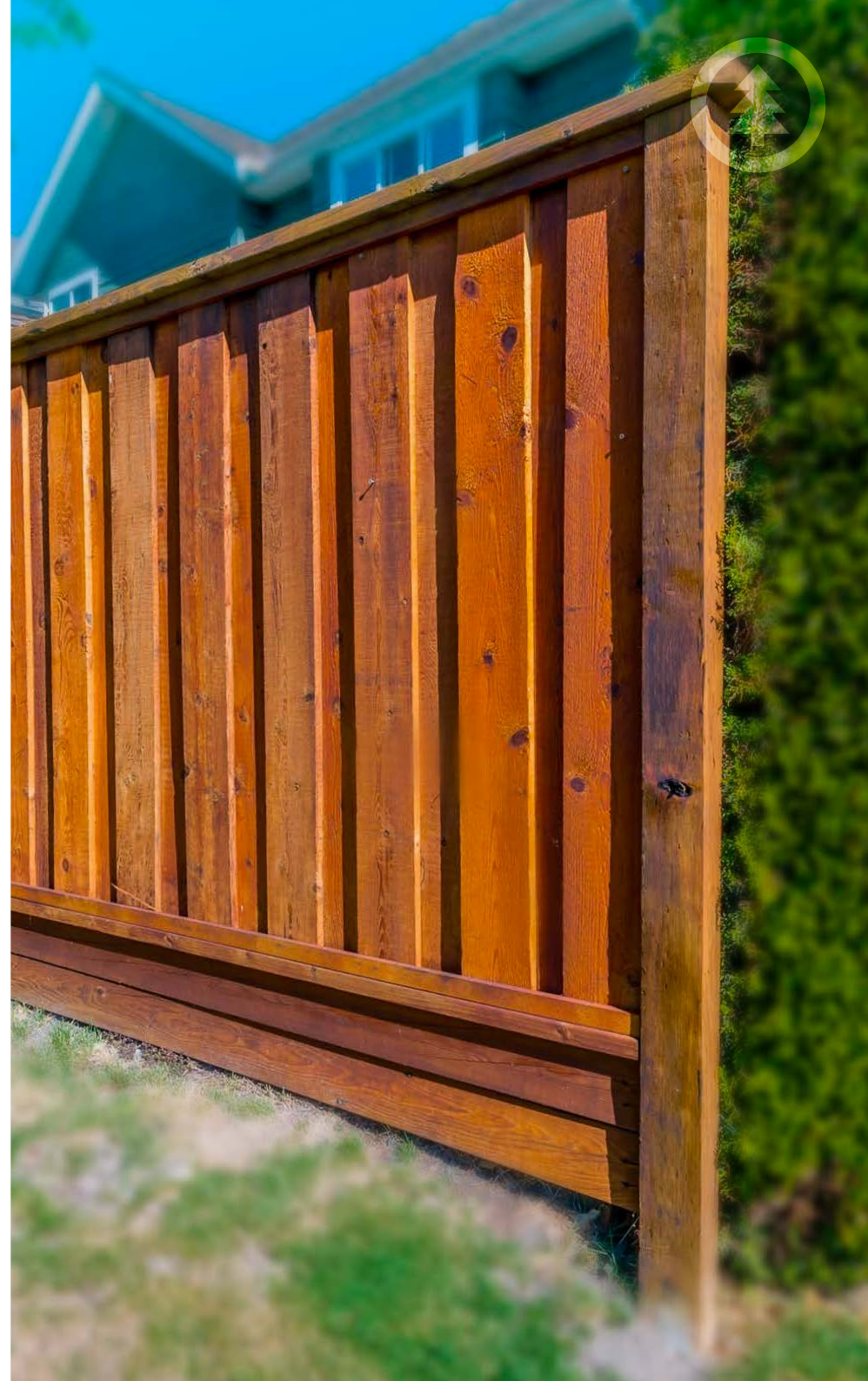
#### **Remember:**

- For fences up to 1,200mm, use two rails.
- For fences 1,200 mm to 1,800mm, use three rails.
- Ensure that the rails are twice the length of the post spacing (i.e. two spans), with staggered joints fixed to the top and bottom rails.
- Keep the bottom rail at least 150mm above the ground.

#### **Nails:** Use any of:

- 1x 10mm cup head bolt,
- 1x No. 14 Type 17 batten screw,
- 2x 3.15 mm diameter bullet head nails, or
- 2x 3.05 mm flat head gun nails.

Nails and screws should be 75mm long for 38mm rails and 90mm long for 50mm rails, and those for use with treated pine should have deformed shanks.





## STEP 7:

### ADD THE PANELS / PALINGS

Secure the palings to the rail using two hot-dipped galvanised timber-grip nails, driving them at least 25mm from the end of the board to prevent splitting.

Palings should be either 100 x 15mm or 75 x 15mm.

Ensure that the first board is straight and use a spacer or cleat to ensure equal spacing of the boards.



#### Remember:

- If you are using hand-driven nails with hardwood panels, use bullet head nails.
- If you are using hand-driven nails with softwood panels, use flat head nails.
- If you are using a nail gun, use flat head or dome head nails.
- Ensure that nails for 15mm thick palings are either 50 x 2.8mm (hand-driven) or 45 x 2.5 mm (nail gun).

## STEP 8:

### ADD CAPPING (OPTIONAL)



*Note: Your capping should be 125 x 38mm for hardwood and 120 x 35mm for treated pine.*

1. Place capping rails flush with the top of posts and palings.
2. Fix them to the top posts using 75 x 3.15mm nails at 450mm spacing.

## STEP 9:

### FINISH AND CUSTOMISE

***Congratulations! You've built something special***

Now all that's left is to make your fence personal to you.

Use 2 or 3 coats of an outdoor fence paint or oil-based stain to prevent surface checking and discolouration from weathering.

***Narangba Timbers recommends QCOAT Outdoor Oil!***





# Gallery

Get some inspiration, with these beautiful fencing ideas.





## *Maintenance tips:*

### **INSPECT REGULARLY**

*The simplest way to ensure that your timber fencing remains in tip-top condition is to regularly check your fence for signs of damage.*

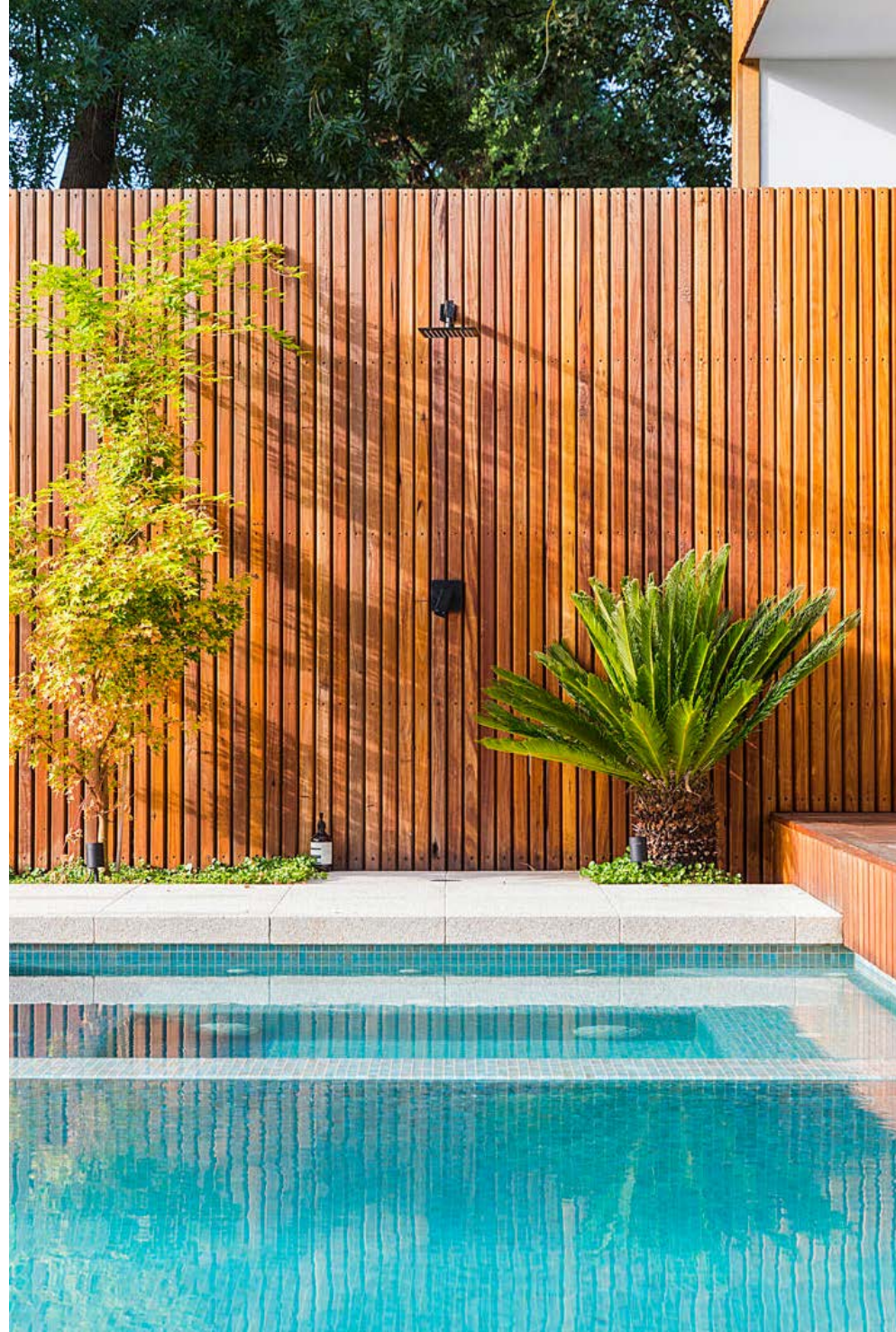
*Every few months, take a walk around your property and inspect the posts closely – keeping an eye out for mildew, loose nails, chipped wood, decay from termite infestation, and peeling paints.*

### **GIVE IT A CLEAN**

*You can fix common problems – like mildew stains, dirt and grime build-up – with a quick and easy clean using a high-pressure washer. If you don't have one, you can hire one or simply use a normal hose and give it a good scrub with a brush or broom.*

### **RESEAL OR PAINT AFTER CLEANING**

*If your fence is looking a little worse for wear, give your palings a new stain or coat of paint. With both options, you'll need to strip back your palings to their raw finish. For the best outcome, use exterior oil-based stain or fence paint.*







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728 Old Gympie Road, Narangba  
Queensland 4504, Australia



+617 3888 1293



[narangbatimbers.com.au](http://narangbatimbers.com.au)  
[sales@narangbatimbers.com.au](mailto:sales@narangbatimbers.com.au)