VANCOUVER FENCE BUILDERS

Fence Materials & Products

Fence material comparisons including wood, vinyl, aluminum, chain-link, composite, and specialty materials — performance and longevity in BC's climate

25 Expert Answers from Fence IQ

vancouverfencebuilders.com/construction-brain

Table of Contents

24. What's the lifespan of different fence types in Vancouver's climate?

25. What's the best fence for a sloped lot with a view in West Vancouver?

Q1

What's the best type of fence for Vancouver's rainy climate that won't rot within a few years?

The best fence materials for Vancouver's rainy marine climate are Western Red Cedar (with regular sealing), vinyl/PVC, and aluminum — all three resist moisture damage and perform well in the 1,200mm+ of annual rainfall Metro Vancouver receives. If rot resistance is your top priority and you want zero maintenance, vinyl or aluminum fencing will outlast any wood product. If you prefer the natural beauty of wood, Western Red Cedar is the clear winner for BC's wet coast.

Why Wood Fences Rot in Vancouver — and How to Prevent It

Moisture is the number one enemy of wood fences in Metro Vancouver. Unlike drier climates in Alberta or the BC Interior where wood fences can last 20+ years with minimal care, untreated or poorly maintained wood fences on the coast can show significant rot and structural failure within five to eight years. The culprit is not just rain falling on the fence — it is moisture wicking up from the ground through fence posts, water pooling around post bases in clay-heavy soil, and persistent dampness in shaded areas where fences never fully dry out between rain events.

Western Red Cedar is the premium wood choice for fencing in BC and the most popular material among Metro Vancouver fence contractors. Cedar contains natural oils called thujaplicins that actively resist rot, fungal decay, and insect damage. It is dimensionally stable in wet conditions, meaning it swells and shrinks less than other woods as it absorbs and releases moisture. Cedar is also locally harvested in British Columbia, keeping costs reasonable and supply reliable. A properly installed cedar fence with stain or sealer applied every two to three years can last 20 to 25 years in Vancouver's climate. Expect to pay $40 to $80 per linear foot installed for a 6-foot cedar privacy fence.

Pressure-treated wood is the budget-friendly alternative at $30 to $65 per linear foot installed. The chemical treatment (typically alkaline copper quaternary or ACQ) prevents rot from within the wood fibre, and it performs reasonably well in Vancouver's climate. However, pressure treatment does not prevent surface weathering, greying, cracking, or checking. It still requires sealing every two to three years, and the cut ends of pressure-treated boards lose their chemical protection — you must apply end-cut preservative to every cut surface during installation. Pressure-treated fences typically last 15 to 20 years with proper maintenance.

Maintenance-Free Options That Thrive in Rain

Vinyl (PVC) fencing is arguably the best performer in Metro Vancouver's wet climate. It cannot absorb moisture, will not rot, warp, crack, or split, and never needs painting, staining, or sealing. A garden hose rinse once or twice a year is the only maintenance required. Quality vinyl fencing from reputable manufacturers carries 20 to 30 year

warranties, and many vinyl fences last well beyond that. Modern vinyl comes in a range of colours and woodgrain textures that look surprisingly natural. The trade-off is a higher upfront cost — $35 to $70 per linear foot installed for a 6-foot privacy panel — but the zero-maintenance lifetime cost often makes vinyl cheaper than wood over 20 years.

Aluminum fencing is another excellent moisture-proof option, though it serves a different purpose. Aluminum is powder-coated to resist corrosion and will not rust in Vancouver's rain. It is ideal for front yard decorative fencing, pool enclosures, and properties where you want an open, elegant look rather than solid privacy. At $45 to $90 per linear foot installed, it is a premium product, but it lasts decades with no maintenance beyond occasional washing.

Critical Installation Details for Wet Climate Performance

Regardless of material, how the fence is installed matters as much as what it is made from. In Metro Vancouver, fence posts must be set in concrete with a four to six inch bed of drainage gravel beneath the post base. The gravel allows groundwater to drain away from the wood rather than pooling around it — this single detail can add years to post life. Posts should be a minimum of two feet deep for a 6-foot fence, and 2.5 to 3 feet deep in soft or clay-heavy soil common in Richmond, Delta, and parts of Surrey. All fasteners must be galvanized or stainless steel — standard steel screws and nails will rust, streak the wood, and eventually fail in Vancouver's moisture.

For wood fences, keeping the bottom of fence boards raised two to four inches above ground level prevents soil moisture from wicking into the panels. This gap also reduces moss and algae buildup along the base, which is extremely common on north-facing fences and fences under tree canopy throughout Metro Vancouver.

Find experienced fence professionals who understand Vancouver's climate through the Vancouver Construction Network at vancouverconstructionnetwork.com.

Q2

What's the difference between pressure-treated wood and cedar for fencing in Metro Vancouver?

The core difference is how each material resists rot: Western Red Cedar uses natural oils built into the wood fibre, while pressure-treated lumber relies on chemical infusion (typically alkaline copper quaternary or ACQ) forced into ordinary spruce-pine-fir. Both can perform well in Metro Vancouver's wet marine climate, but they differ significantly in cost, appearance, maintenance needs, lifespan, and long-term value.

Cost Comparison

Pressure-treated fencing runs $30 to $65 per linear foot installed for a 6-foot privacy fence in Metro Vancouver (2025-2026 pricing). **Western Red Cedar** runs $40 to $80 per linear foot installed for the same height and style. The gap is roughly 30 to 50 percent, meaning a 200 linear foot fence project would cost approximately $6,000 to $13,000 for pressure-treated versus $8,000 to $16,000 for cedar. That difference of $2,000 to $6,000 is meaningful upfront, but needs to be weighed against the total cost of ownership over the fence's lifetime.

Rot Resistance and Lifespan

Cedar's natural thujaplicin oils resist decay from within the wood cells — this protection does not wash out or wear off. A well-maintained cedar fence in Metro Vancouver lasts 20 to 25 years. Pressure-treated lumber's chemical treatment penetrates the outer layers of the wood effectively, but does not reach the heartwood of thicker pieces like posts. When pressure-treated posts are cut or drilled, the untreated interior is exposed, which is why applying end-cut preservative to every cut surface is critical — especially in Metro Vancouver's 1,200mm+ annual rainfall. A well-maintained pressure-treated fence lasts 15 to 20 years.

Both materials need sealing or staining every two to three years in Metro Vancouver's climate. The difference is what happens when you skip a cycle. An unsealed cedar fence weathers to a silvery grey and may develop surface checking, but the natural oils continue providing structural rot resistance. An unsealed pressure-treated fence also greys and weathers, but surface cracking allows moisture to reach untreated wood below the chemical barrier, potentially accelerating decay from within.

Appearance

This is where cedar clearly wins. Fresh cedar has a warm, rich colour ranging from honey gold to reddish brown, with attractive grain patterns that look natural and refined. It takes stain beautifully and can be finished in a range of tones from natural cedar to darker walnut or driftwood shades. Cedar's appearance improves with a quality semi-transparent stain.

Pressure-treated wood starts with a greenish tint from the copper-based treatment chemical, which weathers to a dull grey within six months to a year. It can be stained, but the grain is typically less attractive than cedar (it is spruce-pine-fir, a utilitarian softwood). PT lumber also has a higher incidence of warping, twisting, and cupping as it dries, which can give the fence an uneven appearance within the first year. Contractors often recommend letting PT lumber dry for several months before staining, but this means your fence looks green-grey for its first season.

Dimensional Stability

Cedar is one of the most dimensionally stable softwoods available. It swells and shrinks minimally as it moves through wet and dry cycles — a major advantage in Metro Vancouver where fences experience months of continuous rain followed by dry summers. Cedar boards maintain their shape, keep consistent gaps between them,

and resist the warping and cupping that plagues other softwoods.

Pressure-treated lumber is more prone to movement. SPF lumber is not naturally stable, and the pressure treatment process saturates the wood with moisture and chemicals, causing significant drying and shrinkage after installation. It is common for gaps to open between pressure-treated fence boards within the first year as the lumber dries, and twisting or cupping of individual boards is frequent. Experienced fence contractors mitigate this by selecting straighter boards and using structural screws rather than nails, but some movement is inevitable.

Environmental Considerations

Cedar is a natural product with no chemical treatments. It can be disposed of as clean wood waste, used in garden beds (cedar chips are a popular mulch), or burned in outdoor fires. Pressure-treated wood contains copper and other chemicals that should not be burned, composted, or used in vegetable garden beds. PT lumber must be disposed of at appropriate waste facilities. In Metro Vancouver, most transfer stations accept pressure-treated wood but it is classified separately from clean wood waste.

The Bottom Line for Metro Vancouver Homeowners

If budget is your primary constraint, pressure-treated wood builds a functional, rot-resistant fence at a lower upfront cost. With diligent sealing every two to three years and end-cut preservative on all cut surfaces, it will serve you well for 15 to 20 years. If appearance, long-term value, and lower lifetime maintenance are priorities, Western Red Cedar is the better investment — it looks better from day one, holds its shape in Vancouver's rain, and lasts longer with the same maintenance schedule. Cedar is locally sourced in BC, making it a natural fit for the region.

Whichever material you choose, proper installation is what determines long-term performance. Posts set in concrete with drainage gravel beneath, galvanized or stainless steel fasteners throughout, and panels raised two to four inches above grade are non-negotiable in Metro Vancouver's wet climate.

Get matched with fence professionals who can advise on the best material for your specific property through Vancouver Fence Builders.

Q3

What type of wood is most resistant to moisture damage for fencing in Vancouver?

Western Red Cedar is the clear winner for moisture resistance in Metro Vancouver fencing, and it's the reason cedar dominates the residential fence market across the Lower Mainland. Native to British Columbia's

coastal forests, Western Red Cedar contains natural oils (thujaplicins) and extractives that make it inherently resistant to rot, decay, and insect damage — no chemical treatment required. In a region that receives over 1,200 mm of annual rainfall, this natural moisture resistance is not a luxury but a necessity.

Cedar's cellular structure gives it a critical advantage over other wood species in Vancouver's marine climate. The wood has a low density with small, uniform cell walls that absorb and release moisture evenly, making it dimensionally stable — it swells and shrinks less than other species as humidity changes through the seasons. This means fewer warped boards, less cracking, and tighter joints that stay weatherproof longer. A well-maintained cedar fence in Metro Vancouver will last 15-25 years, and exceptional installations with premium tight-knot cedar can exceed 30 years.

Pressure-treated lumber (usually spruce, pine, or fir infused with preservatives) is the main alternative and costs 30-50% less than cedar. The chemical treatment — typically micronized copper azole (MCA) or alkaline copper quaternary (ACQ) in Canadian products — prevents rot and insect damage effectively. However, pressure-treated wood has drawbacks in Vancouver's wet climate. It tends to warp, twist, and crack more than cedar as it dries after installation because the treatment process saturates the wood with moisture. The greenish colour fades to grey within a year unless stained. And while the treatment protects against internal decay, the surface still weathers and checks without regular sealing every 2-3 years.

Other wood species to consider — and some to avoid. Douglas fir is strong and locally available in BC but has moderate rot resistance and requires diligent sealing in Vancouver's climate. It's acceptable for fence rails and structural components but not ideal for fence boards exposed to weather. Yellow cedar (Alaska Yellow Cedar) has excellent rot resistance and is premium-priced, sometimes used for high-end custom fencing. Hemlock and SPF (spruce-pine-fir) lumber without pressure treatment should never be used for outdoor fencing in Metro Vancouver — they rot within 3-5 years in ground contact or constant moisture exposure.

Regardless of wood species, proper installation practices dramatically affect moisture resistance. In Metro Vancouver, every fence post should sit on a 4-6 inch gravel drainage bed with concrete above — the gravel prevents water from pooling at the post base, which is the most common rot failure point. All cut ends should be treated with end-cut preservative to seal the exposed grain. Fence boards should be installed with a 2-4 inch gap above grade so the bottom edge doesn't wick moisture from the soil. And staining or sealing every 2-3 years is essential for any wood fence in this climate, including cedar.

For Metro Vancouver homeowners choosing between cedar and pressure-treated wood, the decision usually comes down to budget versus longevity. Cedar costs $40-$80 per linear foot installed versus $30-$65 for pressure-treated, but cedar's longer lifespan, better appearance, and lower maintenance make it the better value over 15-20 years. If budget is the primary constraint, pressure-treated with a quality semi-transparent stain applied within 3-6 months of installation is a solid, practical choice.

Want to discuss wood options with a local professional? Vancouver Fence Builders can connect you with experienced fence contractors across Metro Vancouver.

Q4

Are composite fence boards worth the higher cost in Vancouver's climate?

Composite fence boards are absolutely worth considering in Vancouver's climate, and they may be the smartest long-term investment for homeowners who want a low-maintenance fence that won't rot, warp, or need staining in Metro Vancouver's relentless rain. Composite fencing costs $50-$100 per linear foot installed — roughly 25-50% more than Western Red Cedar — but delivers near-zero maintenance over a 25-30 year lifespan.

Composite fencing is manufactured from a blend of recycled wood fibres and plastic polymers (usually polyethylene or polypropylene), creating a board that looks like wood but behaves like plastic in terms of moisture resistance. Unlike natural wood, composite does not absorb water, swell, crack, split, or develop rot. In Metro Vancouver, where fences are soaked by rain for 6-7 months of the year and rarely fully dry out between storms, this moisture immunity is a major advantage. Composite boards won't develop the moss, mildew, and green algae that plague wood fences in shaded, north-facing installations — a quick wash with a garden hose restores the clean appearance.

The cost comparison tells a compelling story over time. For a 150-linear-foot fence, cedar costs roughly $6,000-$12,000 installed, with ongoing staining at $300-$750 every 2-3 years and occasional board replacements. Over 20 years, total cedar fence cost including maintenance reaches $10,000-$18,000. Composite costs $7,500-$15,000 installed with essentially zero maintenance cost afterward — no staining, no sealing, no board swaps. By year 10-12, composite has typically broken even with cedar, and every year after that is pure savings.

There are legitimate downsides to composite that Vancouver homeowners should weigh. First, composite fencing has a more uniform, manufactured appearance — some homeowners prefer the natural grain variation and warmth of real cedar. Higher-end composites like Trex, Fiberon, and SimTek have improved significantly in mimicking wood grain, but side by side with real Western Red Cedar, most people can tell the difference. Second, composite boards can expand and contract with temperature changes, requiring specific installation techniques with expansion gaps. Third, composite can get hotter than wood in direct summer sun, though this matters more for decking than fencing. Fourth, colour options, while expanding, are still more limited than what you can achieve with stain on natural wood.

Quality matters enormously with composite fencing. Budget composite boards (under $4 per linear foot for material) can fade, stain permanently from grease or tannins, and develop surface mould in Vancouver's humidity. Premium composites with capped technology — where the wood-plastic core is wrapped in a protective polymer shell — resist fading, staining, and mould far better and carry 25-year warranties on both structural integrity and colour retention. Brands like Trex Seclusions, SimTek, and Fiberon Horizon are purpose-built for fencing

applications and perform well in BC's coastal climate.

The strongest case for composite in Vancouver is on north-facing fences, heavily shaded lots, and properties surrounded by mature trees. These are the conditions where wood fences struggle most — constant shade prevents drying, moss colonizes rapidly, and rot accelerates. Composite is immune to all of these issues, making it the material of choice for difficult microclimates that exist on many Metro Vancouver residential properties.

Interested in comparing composite and wood options for your property? Vancouver Fence Builders can connect you with contractors who install both materials across Metro Vancouver.

Q5

What's the best fence post material for longevity in Vancouver's wet soil?

Steel posts — either galvanized or powder-coated — offer the longest lifespan in Vancouver's wet soil, lasting 30-50+ years without the rot that eventually claims every wood post in Metro Vancouver's marine climate. For homeowners who want the look of wood fencing with maximum post longevity, galvanized steel posts with wood panel infill is an increasingly popular hybrid approach in the Lower Mainland.

The core problem with wood posts in Metro Vancouver is moisture. Even Western Red Cedar, BC's most rot-resistant wood, will eventually decay at the ground line where the post transitions from below-grade concrete to open air. This zone stays perpetually damp — ground moisture wicks up from below while rain saturates from above, and the concrete collar traps moisture against the wood. In Metro Vancouver's wet soil, cedar posts typically last 15-20 years before rot compromises structural integrity at the base. Pressure-treated posts last 12-18 years in the same conditions. Both lifespans can be extended with proper drainage gravel beneath and around the post base, but moisture damage is inevitable.

Steel Posts

Galvanized steel posts (hot-dip galvanized, not electroplated) resist corrosion for 30-50 years in Metro Vancouver's soil conditions. They are standard for chain-link fencing and increasingly used for wood and composite panel fences via bracket systems. A galvanized steel post in a concrete footing costs $30-$60 each installed — roughly double a wood post — but eliminates the most common fence failure point. Powder-coated steel adds a colour layer over the galvanizing for improved appearance, available in black, bronze, and green. Steel posts with wood panel brackets allow you to swap out fence boards without replacing the posts, making future fence refreshes simpler and cheaper.

Cedar Posts with Best Practices

If you prefer all-wood construction, 6x6 Western Red Cedar posts with optimal installation will maximize lifespan. The critical details are a 4-6 inch bed of drainage gravel at the bottom of each post hole, concrete poured above the gravel (not below the post), the concrete crowned above grade so water sheds away from the post rather than pooling, and the entire below-grade portion of the post treated with a copper naphthenate wood preservative before setting. This drainage-focused installation keeps the post base drier and can extend cedar post life to 20-25 years in Metro Vancouver.

Concrete and Composite Post Sleeves

A newer option gaining traction in Metro Vancouver is post sleeves or wraps — a composite or PVC sleeve that slides over a wood or steel post, protecting the below-grade and grade-level sections from moisture. These cost $15-$30 per post and add significant rot protection to wood posts. Combined with gravel drainage, a sleeved cedar post can match or exceed the lifespan of an unprotected steel post.

The bottom line for Metro Vancouver homeowners is that post failure is the most expensive fence repair — replacing a single rotted post costs $150-$400 including removing old concrete, digging a new hole, setting the new post, and reattaching panels. Investing in steel posts or premium cedar installation upfront prevents this recurring expense. For a 200-foot fence with 25 posts, upgrading from standard pressure-treated to galvanized steel adds $375-$750 to the project but eliminates post replacement for the life of the fence.

Want advice on the best post solution for your property? Vancouver Fence Builders can match you with experienced contractors who know Metro Vancouver's soil conditions.

Q6

How does Hardie board compare to wood for fencing in the Lower Mainland?

Hardie board (fibre cement) is not a mainstream fencing material and is rarely used for fence panels in Metro Vancouver, though it has some niche applications. James Hardie products are engineered for siding, trim, and cladding applications — not structural fencing. While fibre cement is moisture-proof and rot-proof, it lacks the flexibility, fastening properties, and impact resistance that fence boards need to handle wind loads, gate swings, and the general physical abuse a fence endures over its lifespan.

The appeal of Hardie board for fencing is understandable in Vancouver's wet climate. Fibre cement is made from cement, sand, and cellulose fibres — it doesn't rot, doesn't absorb moisture, won't warp, and is immune to the moss, mildew, and algae that plague wood fences in the Lower Mainland. It comes pre-primed and can be painted

any colour. On paper, it solves every moisture-related problem that wood fences face in Metro Vancouver. But the material has significant limitations in a fencing application.

Fibre cement is heavy and brittle — two properties that create real problems for fencing. A standard Hardie plank (6.25 inches wide, 12 feet long) weighs about 13 pounds, compared to 4-5 pounds for an equivalent cedar board. A 6-foot-tall fence panel using Hardie planks would weigh roughly three times as much as a cedar panel, requiring substantially heavier posts and hardware. More critically, fibre cement cracks on impact. A fence takes hits from lawnmowers, sports equipment, falling branches, and wind-driven debris. Cedar absorbs these impacts and bounces back; Hardie board fractures, and individual broken planks are difficult to replace without disturbing the surrounding boards.

Hardie board also requires special tools and fasteners. Cutting fibre cement creates silica dust that requires a respirator and dust control (a WorkSafeBC requirement). Nailing requires a pneumatic nailer with specific Hardie-approved fasteners — standard fence nails and screws can crack the material. Pre-drilling is often necessary. All of this adds labour cost and complexity compared to working with cedar, which can be cut, nailed, and screwed with standard carpentry tools.

If you're drawn to the low-maintenance, moisture-proof concept behind Hardie board, better alternatives exist for Metro Vancouver fencing. Composite fence boards (Trex, SimTek, Fiberon) deliver moisture immunity with better flexibility, lighter weight, and purpose-built fencing profiles that include tongue-and-groove or channel systems designed for fence installations. Vinyl/PVC fencing offers similar maintenance freedom with engineered panel systems. Both composite and vinyl are specifically designed as fencing products, with proper wind-load ratings, fastening systems, and warranties for outdoor fence use.

There is one niche application where Hardie board works well in Lower Mainland fencing: accent panels on masonry or concrete-post fence structures. Some custom fence builders use Hardie panels as horizontal infill between concrete or steel posts to create a modern, architectural fence. In this application, the panel is fully supported and doesn't need to flex or absorb impact. These custom installations cost $80-$150 per linear foot and are more common in commercial landscaping than residential fencing.

For residential fencing in Metro Vancouver's wet climate, Western Red Cedar remains the gold standard for natural wood, with composite and vinyl as the leading low-maintenance alternatives. All three are purpose-built for outdoor fence applications and outperform fibre cement in flexibility, weight, workability, and cost-effectiveness.

Need help choosing the right fence material for your property? Vancouver Fence Builders can connect you with contractors experienced in all material types across Metro Vancouver.

Q7

What type of hardware and fasteners should I use for a fence in Vancouver to prevent rust?

Use hot-dip galvanized or stainless steel fasteners for any fence in Metro Vancouver — standard steel hardware will rust, stain your fence boards, and fail within a few years in the Lower Mainland's wet marine climate. This applies to every metal component: screws, nails, bolts, brackets, hinges, latches, and joist hangers. Cutting corners on fastener quality is one of the most common and costly mistakes homeowners make on Vancouver fence projects.

Hot-dip galvanized fasteners are the standard choice for Metro Vancouver fencing and offer the best balance of corrosion resistance and cost. Hot-dip galvanizing coats the steel in a thick layer of zinc (typically 1.5-2.5 oz per square foot) that acts as a sacrificial barrier — the zinc corrodes before the steel, protecting the structural integrity of the fastener. In Metro Vancouver's wet but non-coastal environment, hot-dip galvanized fasteners typically last 20-30 years. For properties within 1-2 km of the ocean or tidal waterways (parts of Kitsilano, Point Grey, West Vancouver, Tsawwassen, White Rock), stainless steel is the better choice because salt air accelerates zinc depletion.

Not all galvanizing is equal — and the distinction matters in Vancouver's climate. Hot-dip galvanized (HDG) fasteners are dipped in molten zinc, creating a thick, durable coating. Electro-galvanized (EG) fasteners receive a much thinner zinc coating through an electroplating process and offer far less corrosion protection — often rusting within 3-5 years in Metro Vancouver's rainfall. Always look for "hot-dip galvanized" or "HDG" on the packaging. Electro-galvanized screws and nails are significantly cheaper but are not adequate for exterior fencing in the Lower Mainland.

Recommended Fastener Types

Ring-shank or spiral-shank galvanized nails provide the best holding power for fence boards. The textured shank grips the wood as it swells and shrinks with moisture changes, preventing boards from working loose over time. Standard smooth-shank nails gradually back out as the wood moves seasonally — a frustrating and common problem on Vancouver fences. Use 2.5-inch (8d) or 3-inch (10d) ring-shank nails for fence boards, and 3.5-inch (16d) for structural connections.

Structural screws (galvanized or stainless) are superior to nails for rail-to-post connections and anywhere you need maximum holding power. #8 or #10 exterior-rated structural screws with a star (Torx) or square (Robertson) drive resist cam-out better than Phillips-head screws during installation. For rail-to-post connections, use 3-inch to 3.5-inch structural screws, two per connection point. GRK, SPAX, and Simpson Strong-Tie all make

excellent galvanized structural screws rated for exterior use in coastal BC conditions.

Gate hardware deserves special attention because gates are the highest-stress component of any fence. Gate hinges should be heavy-duty galvanized or stainless steel rated for the gate weight — residential pedestrian gates need hinges rated for at least 75 pounds, and wider gates need 100+ pound rated hinges. Self-closing hinges for pool gates must meet BC Building Code requirements. Gate latches should be stainless steel or powder-coated galvanized — cheap zinc-plated latches corrode and seize within a year or two in Metro Vancouver.

One important chemical interaction to be aware of: pressure-treated lumber and copper-based fasteners. Modern pressure-treated wood uses copper-based preservatives (ACQ or MCA) that are corrosive to plain steel and even some galvanized coatings. If your fence uses pressure-treated posts or rails, all fasteners in contact with the treated wood should be rated for ACQ/MCA compatibility — look for "ACQ-compatible" on the packaging. Hot-dip galvanized and stainless steel both meet this requirement; electro-galvanized does not.

Budget about $150-$400 for quality fasteners and hardware on a typical 150-200 linear foot residential fence. That's roughly 3-5% of total project cost — a small investment that prevents rust staining, loose boards, and hardware failure that would cost far more to repair.

Need help finding a fence contractor who uses quality materials? Vancouver Fence Builders can match you with professionals across Metro Vancouver who build fences that last.

Q8

What's the best ground-contact treatment for fence posts in BC's clay soil?

For fence posts in BC's clay-heavy soil, pressure-treated lumber rated UC4A or UC4B (ground contact / heavy duty) is the minimum standard, but the installation method matters just as much as the treatment — clay soil holds moisture against the post like a sponge, so drainage engineering around the post base is critical. Without proper drainage, even well-treated posts will deteriorate faster than expected in Metro Vancouver's wet conditions.

Understanding pressure-treatment ratings is the first step. The Canadian Standards Association (CSA) use-category system rates treated wood for its intended exposure. UC3 (above ground, exposed) is NOT suitable for fence posts. UC4A (ground contact, general use) is the minimum for fence posts. UC4B (ground contact, heavy duty) is recommended for posts in high-moisture environments like Metro Vancouver's clay soil, where the wood will be in near-constant contact with wet earth. The treatment chemicals (micronized copper azole or alkaline copper quaternary) are forced deeper into the wood at higher concentrations for UC4B, providing superior long-

term protection. Always check the end tag or stamp on the lumber — if it doesn't say UC4A or UC4B, don't put it in the ground.

Western Red Cedar heartwood is the premium alternative and is locally sourced here in BC. Cedar heartwood's natural thujaplicin oils provide rot resistance without chemical treatment, and the wood performs beautifully in our climate. For fence posts in clay soil, cedar heartwood can last 15-20 years with proper installation. However, cedar posts cost more ($25-$45 each for 6x6 posts versus $15-$30 for pressure-treated) and the sapwood portions of a cedar post offer almost no rot resistance — ensure you're getting heartwood, not sapwood.

The installation technique for clay soil is where most fence failures originate. Clay soil in Metro Vancouver (particularly common in Richmond, Delta, Surrey floodplain areas, and throughout the Fraser Valley) holds water rather than draining it. If you simply dig a hole, drop in a post, and pour concrete, you've created a concrete cup sitting in waterlogged clay — water pools at the post base and accelerates rot from the bottom up. The proper approach involves several key steps.

Dig the post hole 4-6 inches deeper than the post will sit and 3-4 times the post width (so a 12-16 inch diameter hole for a 4x4 post). Fill the bottom with 4-6 inches of clean crushed gravel (not pea gravel — crushed stone compacts and drains better). Set the post on the gravel bed, check for plumb, and pour concrete around the post. Crown the concrete above grade level so it slopes away from the post on all sides, preventing surface water from pooling at the wood-concrete junction. The gravel below allows groundwater in the clay to drain downward rather than sitting against the post base.

Additional protection options include post wrap (a bituminous or HDPE membrane wrapped around the below-grade portion of the post to create a physical moisture barrier), copper post preservative applied to the bottom 24 inches before setting (an extra layer of rot protection), and steel post brackets or anchors that eliminate wood-to-ground contact entirely. Steel post anchors ($15-$30 each) are set in concrete with the wood post bolted above grade — the post never touches soil or concrete, dramatically extending its life. This method is gaining popularity in Metro Vancouver's wet clay conditions.

Steel or aluminum posts are the ultimate solution for clay soil if you want to eliminate rot concerns entirely. Galvanized steel posts ($30-$60 each) will outlast any wood post in BC's clay soil. They can be sleeved with cedar or composite covers for aesthetics while providing permanent structural integrity underground. The higher upfront cost is offset by never needing to replace rotted posts — a single post replacement runs $150-$400 when factoring in labour, concrete removal, and reinstallation.

Q9

Are metal fence posts better than wood posts for longevity in the Lower Mainland?

Metal fence posts are substantially more durable than wood posts in the Lower Mainland's wet climate, and for homeowners who want a fence that lasts 30+ years without post replacement, metal is the clear winner. Galvanized steel or powder-coated metal posts will not rot, warp, split, or be attacked by insects — the primary failure modes that limit wood post lifespan to 10-20 years in Metro Vancouver's marine climate.

The longevity comparison is stark. A properly installed galvanized steel post in Metro Vancouver soil can last 40-60+ years. A quality pressure-treated post (UC4B rated) typically lasts 15-25 years. A Western Red Cedar heartwood post lasts 15-20 years with proper installation. An untreated or poorly treated wood post can fail in as little as 5-8 years in our wet clay soil. When you factor in the cost and disruption of replacing rotted wood posts ($150-$400 per post including labour, concrete removal, and fence re-attachment), metal posts often deliver a lower total lifetime cost despite the higher upfront investment.

Metal post options for residential fencing in the Lower Mainland include several types. Galvanized steel posts ($30-$60 each for 4-inch or 6-inch square tube) are the most common — hot-dip galvanization provides a thick zinc coating that protects the steel from corrosion for decades, even in our wet climate. Powder-coated steel posts add a coloured finish (typically black, bronze, or green) over galvanization for improved appearance — expect $40-$75 each. Aluminum posts ($45-$80 each) are lighter, completely rust-proof, and ideal for ornamental fencing, though they're not as strong as steel for tall privacy fence applications.

The hybrid approach is increasingly popular in Metro Vancouver. Steel posts are set in concrete below grade and extend above the soil line, with cedar or composite sleeves slipped over them for a wood appearance. This gives you the permanence of metal underground (where rot occurs) with the warmth and beauty of wood above ground. The sleeves can be replaced independently if they weather — without disturbing the structural posts. This approach adds $10-$20 per post for the sleeve but eliminates the most expensive and disruptive failure point in any wood fence.

Installation differences are worth understanding. Metal posts are heavier and require different tools — steel posts are typically welded, bolted, or set with specialised brackets rather than simply buried in concrete like wood posts. Most residential metal post systems use a steel post driven or set in concrete with pre-drilled holes for rail brackets. The rails and boards are then attached with self-tapping screws or bolt-through hardware rather than nails. This modular assembly means individual boards or rails can be replaced without affecting the posts — a significant maintenance advantage.

The main drawback of metal posts is cost. For a 200-linear-foot fence with posts every 8 feet (25 posts), upgrading from wood to galvanized steel adds roughly $375-$875 to the project cost. However, avoiding even one

round of post replacement over the fence's life ($3,750-$10,000 for 25 posts) makes the upgrade pay for itself. For homeowners planning to stay in their home long-term, the math strongly favours metal.

Corrosion considerations in Metro Vancouver are minimal for quality galvanized steel. Hot-dip galvanization (as opposed to electroplated zinc, which is thinner and less durable) performs well in our marine climate. Coastal properties within a few hundred metres of salt water should use marine-grade galvanized or aluminum posts, as salt spray accelerates zinc corrosion. For the vast majority of Metro Vancouver residential properties, standard hot-dip galvanized steel is more than adequate.

One practical note: metal posts transmit cold and can form condensation in temperature swings, which can accelerate rust at connection points if the protective coating is scratched during installation. Ensure any drill holes or scratches are touched up with cold galvanizing spray paint ($15-$20 per can) immediately after installation. Quality installers do this as standard practice.

If you're considering metal posts for your next fence project, Vancouver Fence Builders can connect you with local contractors experienced in steel and hybrid post systems across Metro Vancouver.

Q10

What's the difference between rough-cut and smooth cedar fence boards for Vancouver fencing?

Rough-cut (also called rough-sawn) cedar is the better choice for most fence applications in Metro Vancouver because it absorbs and holds stain significantly better than smooth (surfaced or S4S) cedar. The textured surface created by the saw blade provides more surface area for stain penetration, resulting in deeper colour absorption and longer-lasting protection — a critical advantage in Vancouver's wet marine climate where stain longevity directly affects fence lifespan.

The difference between the two comes down to how the lumber is processed at the mill. **Rough-cut cedar** comes directly from the saw with a textured, slightly fuzzy surface that shows visible saw marks. The fibres on the surface are raised and open, creating thousands of tiny channels that pull stain deep into the wood. This texture also gives rough-cut cedar a rustic, natural appearance that many homeowners prefer for privacy fences, especially in the popular board-on-board and traditional vertical board styles. Rough-cut 1x6 Western Red Cedar fence boards at Metro Vancouver lumber suppliers typically run $2 to $4.50 per linear foot depending on grade (STK vs. Clear).

Smooth cedar (S4S — Surfaced Four Sides) has been run through a planer that shaves the surface smooth on all four sides. The planing process compresses and seals the surface wood fibres, creating a tighter grain that resists stain penetration. Stain sits more on the surface rather than soaking in, which means it wears off faster, especially on rain-exposed faces. Smooth cedar has a clean, refined look that works well for modern horizontal fences, front yard picket fences, and architectural applications where a polished appearance is desired. S4S cedar boards cost about the same or slightly more than rough-cut — $2.50 to $5 per linear foot for 1x6 — because the additional planing step adds processing cost.

In practical terms for Metro Vancouver fencing, here's what the surface difference means. A semi-transparent stain applied to rough-cut cedar will typically last 3 to 4 years before needing recoating, while the same stain on smooth cedar may only last 2 to 3 years. On rain-exposed faces (south and west-facing), the difference is even more pronounced. Over a 20-year fence lifespan, choosing rough-cut could save you 2 to 3 full re-staining cycles — at $200 to $500 per application for a 100-linear-foot fence, that's $400 to $1,500 in maintenance savings.

Rough-cut cedar also has slightly better dimensional stability in wet conditions. The textured surface allows the wood to absorb and release moisture more evenly than smooth cedar, reducing the cupping, warping, and checking that occurs when one side of a board gets wetter than the other. In Metro Vancouver's climate, where fences spend months in persistently wet conditions, this dimensional stability matters. Smooth cedar boards are more prone to cupping (curling across the width) because the planed surface resists moisture on one side while the back absorbs it, creating uneven swelling.

There are situations where **smooth cedar is the better choice**. Modern horizontal slat fences with tight, precise spacing look significantly better with smooth boards — the clean edges and uniform surfaces create the crisp, contemporary lines that this style demands. Front yard picket fences and decorative fences in visible locations also benefit from the refined appearance of smooth cedar. And if you plan to apply a clear or natural-tone finish rather than a pigmented stain, smooth cedar shows off the wood grain and colour more elegantly.

One important note about splinters and handling. Rough-cut cedar is exactly what it sounds like — rough. If your fence borders a play area, pool deck, or high-traffic patio where people will lean against or touch the fence regularly, smooth cedar is the more practical choice for comfort and safety. Rough-cut boards can catch clothing and deliver splinters. A light sanding with 80-grit sandpaper can smooth the surface enough to reduce splinters while still maintaining enough texture for good stain absorption — this is a reasonable middle ground.

At Lower Mainland lumber yards, you'll find both options readily available in Western Red Cedar. Suppliers like Windsor Plywood, RONA, and specialty cedar mills in the Fraser Valley stock rough-cut and S4S in standard fence dimensions (1x4, 1x6, 1x8) and common grades. If you're buying in volume for a full fence project, ask about contractor pricing — many yards offer 10 to 15% discounts on orders over 500 linear feet.

For most standard privacy, board-on-board, and traditional fence styles in Metro Vancouver, rough-cut cedar is the practical winner. For modern horizontal and decorative applications, smooth cedar delivers the refined look the design demands. Your fence contractor can advise on which surface works best for your specific project — Vancouver Fence Builders can connect you with experienced local professionals for free.

Q11

Is cedar or redwood better for fencing in Vancouver's marine climate?

Western Red Cedar is the clear winner for fencing in Vancouver's marine climate — not because redwood is inferior, but because cedar is locally sourced in BC, widely available at every Lower Mainland lumber yard, significantly less expensive, and performs just as well as redwood in Metro Vancouver's wet conditions. Redwood (Sequoia sempervirens) is grown almost exclusively in California and Oregon, making it an imported specialty product in BC that costs 40 to 80% more than equivalent cedar with no meaningful performance advantage for fencing applications.

Both woods are naturally rot-resistant, and this is worth understanding. Western Red Cedar contains thujaplicins — natural phenolic compounds in the heartwood that resist fungal decay, insect damage, and bacterial breakdown. California redwood contains tannins and other extractives that provide similar natural protection. In independent decay resistance testing, both species rate as "durable" to "very durable" for ground contact and above-ground

applications. Neither requires chemical pressure-treatment for exterior use, which is why both are prized for fencing, decking, and siding.

The practical differences come down to availability, cost, and local supply chain. Western Red Cedar is harvested throughout British Columbia — it's the provincial tree of BC and one of the most abundant commercial softwood species in the coastal forests. Every lumber yard in the Lower Mainland stocks Western Red Cedar in multiple grades and dimensions specifically cut for fencing. You can get rough-cut or surfaced, STK or Clear, 1x4 through 1x8, in any length you need, often from the same mill that cut it. Prices run $2 to $7 per linear foot for 1x6 fence boards depending on grade.

Redwood, by contrast, is a specialty import in Metro Vancouver. It has to be shipped from California or Oregon, and very few Lower Mainland lumber yards carry it in fence-ready dimensions. When available, redwood fence boards run $5 to $12 per linear foot — roughly double the cost of equivalent cedar. For a 100-linear-foot privacy fence, that price difference adds up to $2,000 to $4,000 in extra material cost with no improvement in fence performance or longevity.

In terms of physical properties for fencing, cedar actually has some advantages over redwood in Metro Vancouver's specific conditions. Cedar is lighter weight (approximately 23 pounds per cubic foot vs. redwood's 28 pounds per cubic foot), which makes it easier to handle during installation and puts less stress on posts and rails. Cedar is also more dimensionally stable than redwood — it shrinks and swells less with moisture changes, which is a significant advantage in a climate that alternates between months of heavy rain and relatively dry summers. Less movement means fewer gaps opening between boards, less cupping, and less checking over time.

Redwood does have a slight edge in hardness and density, which makes it more resistant to denting and surface wear. If your fence is in a location where physical contact is common — along a busy walkway, next to a play area, or bordering a lane where things bump against it — redwood's extra hardness could be beneficial. Redwood also has a naturally richer, deeper reddish-brown colour that many people find more attractive than cedar's lighter reddish tone. However, both woods will weather to the same silver-grey if left untreated, and both accept stain equally well.

From an environmental and sustainability perspective, BC cedar is the more responsible choice for Lower Mainland homeowners. Western Red Cedar harvested in BC is subject to provincial forestry regulations, and many BC mills carry FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) or CSA (Canadian Standards Association) sustainable forestry certification. California redwood comes from a more limited and ecologically sensitive forest range, and while sustainable redwood is available, the supply chain is less transparent for products shipped to Canada. Using locally sourced BC cedar also reduces transportation emissions — the wood travels hundreds of kilometres rather than thousands.

The bottom line for Metro Vancouver homeowners is straightforward. Unless you have a strong aesthetic preference for redwood's colour and are willing to pay the significant premium, Western Red Cedar is the practical choice for fencing in Vancouver's marine climate. It performs equally well against rot and decay, costs substantially less, is available in every grade and dimension at local suppliers, and supports BC's forestry economy. Invest the money you save on materials into better grade cedar (STK or Select), quality stainless steel fasteners, and professional staining — these factors affect fence longevity far more than the species of wood.

Need help finding a fence contractor who works with quality Western Red Cedar? Vancouver Fence Builders can match you with experienced local professionals for free through the Vancouver Construction Network.

Q12

What thickness of cedar fence boards is best for durability in Metro Vancouver?

For maximum durability in Metro Vancouver's wet marine climate, 1-inch nominal (3/4-inch actual) cedar fence boards are the standard minimum, but upgrading to 5/4-inch nominal (1-inch actual) boards provides noticeably better rigidity, wind resistance, and longevity — especially for 6-foot privacy fences. The thicker boards cost roughly 25 to 40% more but can add 3 to 5 years to your fence's lifespan by resisting warping, cupping, and physical damage from wind and impact.

Understanding lumber dimensions is important because the numbers can be confusing. **Nominal thickness** is the size the lumber is called — "1-inch" or "5/4-inch" (spoken as "five-quarter"). **Actual thickness** is the real measurement after milling and drying. A nominal 1-inch cedar board actually measures 3/4 inch (19mm) thick. A nominal 5/4-inch board measures 1 inch (25mm) thick. That extra quarter-inch of wood might not sound like much, but it represents a 33% increase in material thickness that makes a substantial difference in structural performance.

Here's why thickness matters in Metro Vancouver specifically. The region's marine climate delivers over 1,200mm of annual rainfall, strong winter winds, and persistent moisture that causes wood to expand, contract, warp, and cup over time. Thicker boards resist these forces better because they have more mass and more structural depth to maintain their flat profile. A 3/4-inch board exposed to wind rain on one side and sheltered on the other will cup (curl across its width) more readily than a 1-inch board under the same conditions, because the thinner board has less internal resistance to the differential moisture stress.

Wind resistance is another factor. Metro Vancouver experiences strong outflow winds during winter storms, particularly on the North Shore and exposed locations. A solid 6-foot privacy fence acts as a wind sail, and the force on each board is transmitted through the fasteners to the rails. **Thicker boards hold fasteners more securely** — the screws or nails have more wood fibre to grip, and the boards are less likely to split at the fastener points when

wind loads flex the fence. For exposed locations in North Vancouver, West Vancouver, or elevated areas of Burnaby and Coquitlam, 5/4-inch boards are a worthwhile upgrade for wind performance alone.

Standard 1-inch nominal (3/4-inch actual) boards are the industry default for residential fencing across Metro Vancouver and are what most fence contractors will quote unless you specify otherwise. At this thickness, 1x6 Western Red Cedar (the most common fence board size) provides adequate performance for typical residential applications — rear yard privacy fences, side fences, and fence sections with reasonable wind exposure. Material cost for 1x6 STK cedar at 3/4-inch thickness runs $2 to $4.50 per linear foot at Lower Mainland lumber suppliers. This thickness is appropriate for fences up to 6 feet tall with posts spaced 8 feet apart and three horizontal rails.

5/4-inch nominal (1-inch actual) boards are the premium upgrade. They feel substantially more solid when you handle them, produce a more robust-sounding fence (less rattling and flexing in wind), and resist damage from impact better — relevant if your fence borders a lane, driveway, or area where things might bump into it. Material cost for 5/4 x 6 STK cedar runs $3 to $6 per linear foot, adding roughly $1 to $1.50 per linear foot to the board cost. For a 100-linear-foot fence at 6 feet tall requiring approximately 700 boards, the upgrade cost is approximately $700 to $1,050 — a modest premium for a noticeably more durable fence.

Boards thinner than 3/4 inch should be avoided for fence panels in Metro Vancouver. Some budget-oriented suppliers sell 5/8-inch or even 1/2-inch cedar boards for fencing, and while they cost less upfront, they warp quickly in Vancouver's wet climate, split easily when fastened, and provide poor wind resistance. Thin boards also show checking (surface cracks) more prominently because there's less material to absorb the stress of repeated wet-dry cycles.

For fence rails and structural members, always use full 2-inch nominal (1.5-inch actual) lumber — 2x4 cedar or pressure-treated for rails and 4x4 or 6x6 for posts. Rails are horizontal and collect water, making them the first structural component to rot on most fences. In Metro Vancouver, some contractors upgrade to 2x6 bottom rails for added durability at the moisture-prone base of the fence.

Whichever thickness you choose, ensure you're getting heartwood cedar, use stainless steel or hot-dipped galvanized fasteners, and plan for staining every 2 to 3 years. These factors combine with board thickness to determine how long your cedar fence will last in Metro Vancouver's demanding climate. Find experienced fence contractors through Vancouver Fence Builders to discuss the right specifications for your project.

Q13

What's the best fencing option to keep deer out of my garden in Maple Ridge?

To reliably keep deer out of your garden in Maple Ridge, you need a fence that is at least 8 feet tall — deer can easily clear a standard 6-foot fence with a standing jump. This is one of the most common fencing challenges in eastern Metro Vancouver, where Maple Ridge, Pitt Meadows, and the Fraser Valley communities border extensive wildlife habitat and deer routinely browse through residential properties, destroying vegetable gardens, fruit trees, ornamental plantings, and landscaping.

The **height requirement** is non-negotiable. White-tailed deer and mule deer, both common in the Maple Ridge area, can jump 6 feet from a standing position and even higher with a running start. A 6-foot fence provides zero effective deer deterrence — they will simply sail over it. The minimum effective height for deer exclusion is 7.5 to 8 feet. This creates a complication with municipal bylaws, since the District of Maple Ridge generally limits fence height to 1.83 metres (6 feet) in residential rear and side yards. However, many municipalities allow taller fencing for agricultural or garden protection purposes with a permit or variance — contact the Maple Ridge planning department to discuss your specific situation before building.

The most cost-effective deer fence for Maple Ridge gardens is a **polypropylene mesh deer fence** — a lightweight, UV-stabilized black plastic mesh mounted on steel T-posts or wooden posts. At 8 feet tall, this system costs just $3 to $8 per linear foot for materials and $8 to $15 per linear foot installed. The mesh is nearly invisible from a distance (black blends into the tree line), which is a major aesthetic advantage over chain-link or metal fencing. It won't stop a determined bear or a vehicle, but it reliably stops deer. The mesh is available in various gauges — heavier grades (650 to 1,000 lb breaking strength) resist deer pushing against it, while lighter grades are adequate for gardens where deer pressure is moderate. In Maple Ridge's wet climate, polypropylene mesh won't rust, rot, or degrade, and quality UV-stabilized products last 10 to 15 years.

Metal options for deer fencing include welded wire mesh (2x4 inch openings) on wooden or steel posts, which costs $10 to $25 per linear foot installed at 8-foot height. This is more durable than plastic mesh and can double as a trellis for climbing vegetables or fruit. Galvanized welded wire resists rust well in Maple Ridge's wet conditions, though vinyl-coated wire in black or green offers better corrosion resistance and blends more naturally into garden settings. Chain-link fencing at 8 feet is another option at $30 to $55 per linear foot installed, but it's visually heavy and feels institutional for a residential garden application.

A double-fence strategy is an alternative if you cannot build above 6 feet due to bylaw restrictions. Two parallel fences, each 4 to 5 feet tall and spaced 4 to 5 feet apart, create a visual barrier that deer won't jump because they cannot gauge the landing zone between the fences. This technique is used by agricultural operations throughout the Fraser Valley. The inner fence can be simple wire mesh while the outer fence can be a more attractive cedar or

picket design. The downside is the 4 to 5 feet of unusable space between fences — significant on smaller Maple Ridge lots but workable on larger rural-residential properties.

Electric deer fencing is highly effective and surprisingly affordable. A single-strand or multi-strand electric fence using a low-impedance charger delivers a harmless but startling shock that trains deer to avoid the area after one or two contacts. Electric deer fence systems cost $1 to $4 per linear foot for materials. They can be installed as a standalone barrier or as an addition to an existing fence that is too short. Solar-powered chargers work well in Maple Ridge's climate and eliminate the need for electrical connections. Electric fences are legal for residential use in BC but must be properly signed with warning notices and should not be installed where children or pets could contact the wire unsupervised.

Practical tips for Maple Ridge deer fencing: bury the bottom of mesh fencing 6 to 12 inches underground or pin it with landscape staples, because deer will try to push under a fence before jumping over it. Gates are the weak point in any deer fence — ensure gates are full height and close tightly with no gaps at the bottom or sides. Motion-activated sprinklers and lights near the fence line provide supplementary deterrence. If you're protecting a small garden (under 500 square feet), a complete mesh enclosure with a roof or overhead netting is the most foolproof solution.

For larger properties or situations requiring a professional-grade installation, Vancouver Fence Builders can connect you with fence contractors experienced in wildlife exclusion fencing in the Maple Ridge and Fraser Valley area.

Q14

Is powder-coated aluminum fencing worth the cost in Vancouver's salty coastal air?

Powder-coated aluminum fencing is absolutely worth the cost in Vancouver's coastal environment — in fact, it's one of the few fencing materials that truly thrives in salty marine air without any ongoing maintenance. The combination of aluminum's natural corrosion resistance and the additional protection of powder coating makes it arguably the best-performing fence material for properties exposed to Metro Vancouver's salt-laden coastal winds, particularly in West Vancouver, the North Shore waterfront, Kitsilano, Point Grey, English Bay, and Richmond's coastal areas.

To understand why, it helps to know **how salt air destroys other fence materials.** Salt-laden moisture — carried inland by prevailing westerly winds off the Pacific, Burrard Inlet, and English Bay — accelerates corrosion on steel and iron through an electrochemical process called galvanic corrosion. A wrought iron or mild steel fence within a

few kilometres of the waterfront will show surface rust within 1 to 3 years, even with quality paint. The salt gets into every scratch, chip, and crevice in the paint, and once rust starts underneath the coating, it spreads rapidly. Repainting an iron fence every 3 to 5 years costs $5 to $10 per linear foot — over 20 years, you'll spend nearly as much on maintenance as the original fence cost.

Aluminum is fundamentally different. When aluminum is exposed to air and moisture, it forms a thin, transparent oxide layer (aluminum oxide) on its surface that is extremely hard and chemically stable. Unlike iron rust, which flakes off and exposes fresh metal to continued corrosion, aluminum oxide bonds tightly to the base metal and actually protects it from further degradation. This natural oxide layer makes aluminum inherently resistant to salt air corrosion — it's the same reason aluminum boats and marine hardware last decades in saltwater environments.

Powder coating adds a second layer of protection on top of aluminum's natural corrosion resistance. Unlike liquid paint, which is applied wet and can have thin spots, runs, and pinholes, powder coating is applied as a dry electrostatic charge and then baked at 200°C in an industrial oven. This creates a uniform, extremely hard finish that is 4 to 10 times thicker than standard paint. Quality powder coating on aluminum fencing is rated to resist salt spray for over 3,000 hours in accelerated corrosion testing (ASTM B117) — equivalent to decades of real-world coastal exposure. The finish resists chipping, scratching, peeling, and UV fading, and major manufacturers warranty their powder coating for 15 to 25 years.

Cost comparison tells the full story. Powder-coated aluminum fencing costs $45 to $90 per linear foot installed — roughly 10 to 30% more than a comparable painted steel or iron fence at $40 to $75 per linear foot. But the lifetime cost calculation heavily favours aluminum:

Powder-coated aluminum over 20 years: $45 to $90 per linear foot initial cost + $0 maintenance = **$45 to $90 total per foot.** Wrought iron or painted steel over 20 years: $40 to $75 per linear foot initial + 4 repaintings at $5 to $10 per foot each = **$60 to $115 total per foot** — plus the hassle and disruption of regular repainting. And if you skip even one repainting cycle, the rust damage can become structural, requiring section replacement at $50 to $100 per linear foot.

What about galvanized steel? Hot-dip galvanized chain-link and steel fencing offers good corrosion resistance through a zinc coating that sacrificially corrodes before the base steel. In Metro Vancouver's coastal zones, galvanized steel performs reasonably well for 15 to 20 years before the zinc layer is consumed and rust begins. Vinyl-coated galvanized chain-link performs even better. But for ornamental or decorative applications where appearance matters, aluminum with powder coating delivers a cleaner, more refined look than galvanized steel while offering superior corrosion resistance.

Practical advice for coastal properties in Metro Vancouver: even with powder-coated aluminum's excellent performance, washing the fence with fresh water 2 to 4 times per year removes accumulated salt deposits and

extends the coating's life. This is especially important for properties directly on the waterfront in West Vancouver, Ambleside, Dundarave, and the Richmond dike areas where salt spray is most concentrated. A garden hose and soft brush is all that's needed — no chemicals, no repainting, no rust treatment.

For properties within 2 to 3 kilometres of salt water in Metro Vancouver, powder-coated aluminum is not just worth the cost — it's the smart choice. Vancouver Fence Builders can connect you with aluminum fence specialists across Metro Vancouver for a free estimate.

Q15

What's the difference between welded and assembled aluminum fence panels?

Welded aluminum fence panels have their pickets and rails permanently fused together at every joint using aluminum welding, while assembled (or screwed) panels use mechanical fasteners — stainless steel screws or rivets — to attach pickets to pre-drilled rails. Both types are widely available in Metro Vancouver, both perform well in the region's wet coastal climate, and both come powder-coated in standard colours. The differences come down to structural rigidity, racking capability on slopes, long-term durability, and cost.

Welded panels are manufactured in a factory where each picket is TIG-welded or MIG-welded to the top and bottom rails (and a mid-rail on taller panels) at every intersection point. The welds are ground smooth and the entire panel is powder-coated after welding, so the coating covers the weld joints completely. This creates an extremely rigid, one-piece panel that cannot loosen over time — there are no fasteners to back out, no screws to corrode, and no joints to rattle in the wind. Welded panels are the standard for commercial-grade aluminum fencing and are increasingly common in residential applications. Expect to pay $30 to $55 per linear foot for materials (before installation) for welded residential-grade panels.

The main **limitation of welded panels** is their rigidity — which sounds counterintuitive, but matters on Metro Vancouver properties. Because the pickets are permanently fixed to the rails at 90 degrees, welded panels cannot rack (angle) to follow ground slopes. On a flat lot, this is irrelevant. But Metro Vancouver has abundant sloped terrain — properties in North Vancouver, Burnaby Mountain, Coquitlam's Westwood Plateau, and Port Moody's Heritage Mountain frequently have grade changes across the fence line. With welded panels on slopes, you must either step the fence (each panel is level, with gaps at the bottom on the downhill side) or have panels custom-cut to follow the slope. Stepping creates a stair-step appearance with triangular gaps under each panel, which may need to be filled with additional material for a clean look.

Assembled panels use screws or rivets to attach pickets to the rails through pre-punched or pre-drilled holes. Quality assembled panels use stainless steel or coated fasteners that resist corrosion in Vancouver's wet climate.

The key advantage is **racking capability** — because the pickets can pivot slightly at the fastener points, the entire panel can be angled up to 15 to 30 degrees (depending on the manufacturer) to follow ground contours without stepping. This creates a much cleaner, more consistent look on sloped properties, with the pickets remaining vertical while the rails angle with the grade. For Metro Vancouver properties with moderate slopes, rackable assembled panels often produce a better-looking result than rigid welded panels.

Assembled panels are also **easier to repair** in the field. If a picket is damaged — say from a falling tree branch during one of Vancouver's winter windstorms — you can remove the fasteners, replace the individual picket, and re-secure it without affecting the rest of the panel. With a welded panel, a damaged picket requires cutting it out and welding in a replacement, which damages the powder coating at the repair site and requires touch-up paint that may not perfectly match the original factory finish.

The durability concern with assembled panels is fastener integrity over time. In Metro Vancouver's wet climate, even stainless steel fasteners can develop surface corrosion after 10 to 15 years, and aluminum-to-steel contact creates a galvanic corrosion risk where dissimilar metals meet in the presence of moisture. Quality manufacturers address this with nylon bushings or rubber washers between the steel fastener and the aluminum to isolate the metals. Cheaper assembled panels skip this isolation, and after 5 to 10 years in Vancouver's rain you may notice white oxidation powder (aluminum oxide) forming around the fastener holes — a sign of galvanic corrosion beginning.

Cost comparison for Metro Vancouver: Assembled residential panels run $25 to $45 per linear foot for materials, roughly 10 to 20% less than comparable welded panels. Installation labour is similar for both types ($20 to $40 per linear foot), though assembled panels on slopes may actually be faster to install because they rack in place rather than requiring stepping and gap filling.

The recommendation for most Metro Vancouver homeowners is straightforward: choose welded panels for flat properties, front yards, and any application where maximum rigidity and a clean, seamless appearance are priorities. Choose assembled (rackable) panels for sloped terrain, hillside properties, and situations where the fence line follows uneven ground. Either way, invest in quality panels from reputable manufacturers with 15 to 25-year powder coating warranties — the $5 to $10 per foot premium over budget panels pays for itself in longevity. Need help choosing? Vancouver Fence Builders can connect you with aluminum fence specialists who can assess your property and recommend the right system.

Q16

How does aluminum fencing compare to wrought iron for durability in Vancouver's climate?

Aluminum fencing is significantly more durable than wrought iron in Vancouver's wet marine climate, primarily because aluminum does not rust while iron corrodes aggressively in moisture and salt air. This single difference — corrosion resistance — makes aluminum the clear winner for long-term performance in Metro Vancouver, even though wrought iron is technically a stronger metal in terms of raw tensile strength.

The durability comparison comes down to **how each metal responds to Vancouver's 1,200+ millimetres of annual rainfall and coastal salt air.** Wrought iron (and its modern equivalent, mild steel fabricated to look like traditional iron) corrodes through oxidation — when iron contacts water and oxygen, it forms iron oxide (rust). Rust is porous and flaky, meaning it doesn't protect the underlying metal. Instead, it traps moisture against the surface and accelerates further corrosion in a destructive cycle. In Metro Vancouver's climate, where fences are wet for 7 to 8 months of the year, an unprotected iron fence can develop visible surface rust within a single rainy season. Even well-painted wrought iron begins showing rust at scratches, joints, and the base of posts within 2 to 5 years in Vancouver — any nick or chip in the paint allows moisture to reach the iron, and rust blooms outward from these breach points.

Aluminum responds to moisture completely differently. When exposed to air and water, aluminum forms aluminum oxide — a thin, transparent, extremely hard layer that bonds tightly to the metal surface and creates an impermeable barrier against further corrosion. This is a self-healing process: if the surface is scratched, new oxide forms almost instantly. Powder-coated aluminum fencing adds a factory-baked polymer finish over this already corrosion-resistant base metal, creating a double defence that performs exceptionally well in coastal environments. Aluminum fencing in Metro Vancouver will look virtually identical after 20 years to the day it was installed, assuming the powder coating is maintained (which requires only occasional washing with water).

Strength is where wrought iron has a theoretical advantage, but it rarely matters for residential fencing applications. Iron has a higher tensile strength and impact resistance than aluminum — a direct hit from a heavy object is more likely to bend an aluminum picket than an iron one. However, residential fences are not subjected to significant impact forces. Wind load, the most common structural stress on fences in Metro Vancouver, is handled equally well by both materials when properly installed with adequate post depth and concrete footings. Modern aluminum fence panels are engineered with appropriate wall thickness and picket gauge to withstand standard wind loads without flexing or failing.

Weight is a practical durability factor that favours aluminum. Aluminum is roughly one-third the weight of steel/iron, which reduces stress on posts and mounting hardware over time. Lighter panels are less likely to cause

posts to lean or hardware to fatigue after years of wind cycling. This is particularly relevant in Metro Vancouver's exposed locations — the North Shore, waterfront areas, and elevated properties — where winter outflow winds impose repeated loading on fence structures.

Maintenance requirements dramatically affect real-world durability. Wrought iron in Metro Vancouver demands repainting every 3 to 5 years to prevent rust — and this isn't a quick task. It requires wire-brushing any existing rust, applying a rust-inhibiting primer, and then painting with a quality exterior metal paint. Budget $5 to $10 per linear foot each time for professional repainting. Skip a cycle, and the rust damage can become structural within just 2 to 3 additional years. Aluminum with powder coating needs nothing — zero painting, zero rust treatment. Washing with a garden hose a few times per year is the extent of maintenance.

Lifetime cost comparison for a typical 100-linear-foot installation:

Aluminum (powder-coated): $4,500 to $9,000 initial + $0 maintenance over 25 years = **$4,500 to $9,000 total.** Expected lifespan: 30 to 50 years.

Wrought iron (painted): $5,000 to $10,000 initial + 5 repaintings at $500 to $1,000 each over 25 years = **$7,500 to $15,000 total.** Expected lifespan: 20 to 40 years with diligent maintenance, or 10 to 15 years if maintenance is neglected.

The one scenario where iron makes sense is authentic heritage restoration. If you're restoring a character home in Strathcona, Gastown, or Grandview-Woodland and want period-accurate ironwork, a skilled metal fabricator can create beautiful wrought-iron-style fencing that complements the home's architecture in a way aluminum cannot perfectly replicate. But you'll be committing to ongoing maintenance as the price of authenticity.

For virtually every other residential application in Metro Vancouver, aluminum is the more durable, more practical, and more cost-effective choice over its lifespan. Find aluminum and metal fence specialists through Vancouver Fence Builders at no cost.

Q17

What's the difference between #1 and #2 grade pressure-treated lumber for fencing in BC?

The difference between #1 and #2 grade pressure-treated lumber comes down to the number and size of knots, the amount of wane (bark edge), and the allowable warp and twist — and for residential fencing in Metro Vancouver, #2 grade is what 90% of homeowners and contractors use because the cost difference doesn't justify the marginal appearance improvement for a fence application. Understanding the grading

system helps you make an informed choice and avoid paying for lumber quality you don't need.

Lumber grading in Canada is governed by the National Lumber Grades Authority (NLGA) and the grading rules are applied at the mill before pressure treatment. The key visual and structural differences between the grades are:

#1 grade (Select Structural or #1 Common) allows fewer and smaller knots — typically no knots larger than 38mm (1.5 inches) on a 2x4, with knots that are tight (not loose or falling out). Wane (the presence of bark or missing wood on the corner of a board) is minimal — no more than 1/4 of the board width on one face. Warp, bow, twist, and crook tolerances are tighter. The result is a cleaner, straighter board with fewer visual defects. In Metro Vancouver building supply yards, #1 grade pressure-treated 2x4x8 lumber runs $8 to $12 each, and #1 grade 2x6x8 runs $12 to $18 each.

#2 grade (Standard or #2 Common) allows larger knots — up to 75mm (3 inches) on a 2x4, and knots may be loose or have some bark inclusion. Wane is permitted on up to 1/3 of the board width. Greater tolerance for warp, bow, twist, and crook is allowed. You'll see more visual character (which some people call defects and others call rustic charm). #2 grade pressure-treated 2x4x8 lumber costs $5 to $8 each, and 2x6x8 runs $8 to $13 each in Metro Vancouver.

For fence applications specifically, the practical differences between #1 and #2 are relatively minor. Fence boards are cut to length, fastened at multiple points along their span, and viewed from several feet away — conditions that minimize the visual impact of knots and minor defects. A large knot on a structural beam is a concern because it reduces load-bearing capacity at a stress point. A large knot on a fence board is a cosmetic issue that most people never notice once the fence is stained or has weathered for a year. The structural loads on fence boards and rails are modest compared to deck joists or floor framing — wind load and self-weight are the main forces, and #2 grade lumber handles these loads with a generous safety margin.

Where #1 grade does make a meaningful difference is for fence posts and gate posts. Posts are the structural foundation of the entire fence, and they experience sustained lateral loads from wind and the weight of attached panels. A #1 grade post with fewer and smaller knots is less likely to develop a stress crack at a knot location under sustained load. The extra $3 to $5 per post for #1 grade is worth it for the 10 to 15 posts in a typical fence project — that's only $30 to $75 total for meaningfully better structural reliability at the most critical component.

Pressure treatment itself is the same regardless of grade. Both #1 and #2 lumber receive identical chemical treatment (typically ACQ — Alkaline Copper Quaternary — or MCA — Micronized Copper Azole — for residential applications in Canada). The treatment penetrates the wood to protect against rot, decay, and insect damage. The treatment does NOT protect against surface weathering, UV greying, warping, or cupping — that's what stain and sealer do. In Metro Vancouver's wet climate, even pressure-treated lumber needs sealing every 2 to 3 years to prevent surface deterioration.

A practical buying tip for Metro Vancouver homeowners: When buying pressure-treated lumber for a fence project from building supply yards in the Lower Mainland, hand-select your boards regardless of grade. Every bundle of #2 grade lumber contains boards that look nearly as good as #1, alongside boards with significant defects. Spending 20 minutes sorting through the pile to pick the straightest, cleanest boards will save you far more money than paying the #1 grade premium for the entire order. Use the less attractive boards for rails and bottom sections where they're least visible, and save the best boards for the top of the fence and sections closest to eye level.

For most residential fence projects in Metro Vancouver, **#2 grade pressure-treated for boards and rails, #1 grade for posts, and hand-selection at the lumber yard** gives you the best balance of cost and quality. If budget allows and appearance is a high priority, Western Red Cedar remains the superior fencing material in BC's climate — but that's a different conversation entirely. Need help finding a fence contractor? Vancouver Fence Builders offers free matching with local professionals.

Q18

Are there eco-friendly or sustainable fence material options available in Vancouver?

Metro Vancouver homeowners have several genuinely eco-friendly fence material options, and the region's strong environmental values and access to sustainably harvested BC timber make it one of the best markets in Canada for green fencing choices. The most sustainable option depends on your priorities — whether you value locally sourced materials, recycled content, longevity (reducing replacement cycles), chemical-free treatment, or end-of-life recyclability.

Western Red Cedar is arguably the most sustainable conventional fencing material available in Metro Vancouver, and it happens to be the preferred fence wood in the region for performance reasons as well. Cedar is harvested extensively in British Columbia — the province is one of the world's largest producers — and buying BC-sourced cedar means minimal transportation emissions compared to importing lumber from Eastern Canada or the United States. Cedar is naturally rot-resistant without chemical treatment, which eliminates the environmental concerns associated with pressure-treated lumber. It's biodegradable at end of life, can be composted or used as garden mulch when retired, and sustainably managed cedar forests are certified under programs like the **Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)** and the **Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI)**. Look for FSC or SFI certification marks at Metro Vancouver lumber suppliers — certified cedar costs roughly the same as uncertified and guarantees the wood came from responsibly managed forests.

Composite fencing is made from a mixture of recycled wood fibres and recycled plastic (typically HDPE from milk jugs and plastic bags). Major brands like Trex, Fiberon, and NewTechWood offer fence systems that contain 50 to 95% recycled content. Composite fencing performs exceptionally well in Metro Vancouver's wet climate because it doesn't absorb moisture, won't rot, doesn't need staining, and resists mould and mildew. It lasts 25 to 50 years with virtually zero maintenance. The environmental trade-off is that composite is not biodegradable and is difficult to recycle at end of life — though its extreme longevity means fewer replacement cycles over the life of a property. Composite fencing costs $50 to $100 per linear foot installed in Metro Vancouver, putting it at the upper end of residential fencing budgets.

Recycled plastic fencing (100% recycled HDPE or LDPE) is available from specialty manufacturers and looks similar to vinyl fencing but is made entirely from post-consumer recycled plastic. It's virtually indestructible in Metro Vancouver's climate — impervious to moisture, rot, insects, and UV (with stabilizers). It never needs painting or staining. The main drawback is limited style options compared to wood or vinyl — most recycled plastic fencing is available in basic ranch rail, post and board, and privacy panel configurations. Costs run $40 to $80 per linear foot installed. Availability is more limited in Metro Vancouver than vinyl or wood — you may need to order from specialty suppliers.

Bamboo fencing is often marketed as eco-friendly due to bamboo's rapid growth rate (some species grow 90cm per day). However, virtually all bamboo fencing sold in Metro Vancouver is imported from Asia, which adds significant transportation emissions. Its performance in Vancouver's wet climate is also problematic — see the separate question on bamboo fencing durability. From a pure sustainability standpoint, locally sourced FSC-certified cedar is a better environmental choice than imported bamboo.

Salvaged or reclaimed wood is the ultimate sustainable fence material if you can source it. Metro Vancouver has several salvage lumber dealers — including operations that recover old-growth Douglas Fir and cedar from demolished buildings, deconstructed bridges, and retired utility poles. Reclaimed wood fencing has unique character and beauty that new lumber simply cannot match, and reusing existing wood generates zero new harvesting impact. The challenges are inconsistent supply, varying dimensions that require more labour to work with, and higher per-board cost ($4 to $10 per board foot) due to the sorting, denailing, and resurfacing required. Reclaimed wood fencing is best suited for homeowners who value character and are willing to pay a premium for it.

Living fences and hedges are the most environmentally friendly boundary option of all — they sequester carbon, provide habitat for birds and pollinators, filter air and water, and reduce urban heat. Western Red Cedar hedges, native BC species like Oregon Grape and Salal, and flowering hedgerows are all viable in Metro Vancouver's climate. The trade-off is that living fences take 3 to 5 years to establish full privacy, require ongoing trimming, and use water during Vancouver's dry summers.

Practical recommendations for the environmentally conscious Metro Vancouver homeowner: Choose FSC-certified Western Red Cedar as your baseline — it's local, naturally durable, chemical-free, and biodegradable. Finish it with a low-VOC or zero-VOC penetrating stain (several eco-friendly brands are available at Metro Vancouver paint suppliers). Use stainless steel fasteners that won't leach rust or chemicals into the soil. And if budget allows, composite fencing offers the longest service life with the least ongoing maintenance, which reduces total resource consumption over decades. Vancouver Fence Builders can connect you with contractors who specialize in sustainable fence installations across Metro Vancouver.

Q19

How does bamboo fencing hold up in Vancouver's wet climate?

Bamboo fencing does not hold up well in Metro Vancouver's wet marine climate without significant maintenance, and most bamboo fence products sold in the Lower Mainland will show deterioration within 3 to 5 years of installation. This is a material that performs far better in dry, warm climates than in a region that receives over 1,200mm of annual rainfall with extended periods of constant moisture from October through March.

The core problem is that **bamboo is a grass, not a wood**, and its cellular structure absorbs and releases moisture differently than dimensional lumber. Bamboo culms (poles) have a hard, silica-rich outer shell that repels water initially, but any cut ends, drill holes, cracks, or surface abrasions expose the soft, fibrous interior that absorbs water like a sponge. Once moisture penetrates the interior, bamboo swells, develops mould and mildew rapidly (within days in Vancouver's humidity), and begins to decompose. Unlike Western Red Cedar, which has natural oils that resist fungal growth, bamboo has minimal natural decay resistance once its outer shell is compromised.

The types of bamboo fencing available in Metro Vancouver fall into three main categories, each with different durability characteristics:

Rolled bamboo fencing (the most common and cheapest option) consists of thin bamboo canes wired or tied together into flexible rolls that attach to an existing fence or framework. This product costs $10 to $30 per 8-foot roll at Metro Vancouver garden centres and building supply stores. In Vancouver's climate, rolled bamboo is essentially a decorative overlay with a 2 to 4 year lifespan — the wire rusts, the canes crack and split from moisture cycling, and mould colonizes the interior surfaces rapidly. It's acceptable as a temporary decorative screen but should not be considered a durable fencing solution.

Bamboo panel fencing uses thicker bamboo poles (25 to 50mm diameter) mounted in a wood or metal frame. These are sturdier than rolled products and cost $80 to $200 per 6x8-foot panel. With proper installation and maintenance (annual sealing), bamboo panels can last 5 to 8 years in Metro Vancouver before the poles show significant cracking, mould, and structural deterioration. The frames often outlast the bamboo, making panel replacement a recurring cost.

Strand-woven (compressed) bamboo fencing is an engineered product where bamboo fibres are compressed under extreme pressure with adhesive resins to create dense boards similar in appearance and workability to hardwood decking. This is a fundamentally different product from natural bamboo — it's significantly more moisture-resistant, dimensionally stable, and durable. Strand-woven bamboo fencing boards cost $4 to $8 per linear foot for materials, comparable to quality composite or hardwood, and can last 15 to 20 years in Metro Vancouver's climate with periodic sealing. However, it looks like engineered wood rather than natural bamboo — if you want the tropical bamboo aesthetic, this product won't deliver it.

Specific challenges in Metro Vancouver's climate that affect bamboo fencing include persistent moisture exposure from October through March that keeps bamboo saturated for weeks at a time (bamboo needs to dry between wettings to prevent internal rot); moss, algae, and mildew growth that is nearly impossible to prevent on bamboo's textured surface in shaded, humid locations; UV exposure during Vancouver's sunny summers that causes untreated bamboo to bleach, crack, and become brittle; and freeze-thaw cycling (mild but present in Metro Vancouver) that expands absorbed moisture and causes internal cracking.

If you're set on a bamboo aesthetic, there are practical approaches that extend bamboo's life in Metro Vancouver. Treat all bamboo fencing with a quality exterior wood sealer or marine varnish before installation — coat all surfaces, paying special attention to cut ends and drill holes. Reapply sealer annually (compared to every 2 to 3 years for cedar). Install bamboo on a framework that keeps the bottom at least 15cm above grade to prevent soil splash and standing water contact. Ensure good airflow behind and through the bamboo — mounting it tight against a solid fence traps moisture. Apply a mildew-resistant treatment (copper naphthenate or a commercial mildew inhibitor) as a base coat. Even with this maintenance, expect a 5 to 8 year lifespan for natural bamboo poles in Metro Vancouver — compared to 15 to 25 years for properly maintained Western Red Cedar.

The honest recommendation for Metro Vancouver homeowners is to consider whether the bamboo look is worth the significantly shorter lifespan and higher maintenance compared to local alternatives. Western Red Cedar provides a warm, natural aesthetic that performs vastly better in Vancouver's climate, is locally sourced in BC (lower environmental impact than imported bamboo from Asia), and costs roughly the same when you factor in replacement cycles. If you want a maintenance-free fence with a natural look, composite fencing in a bamboo or wood-tone colour may be the practical middle ground. Vancouver Fence Builders can connect you with contractors who can show you material samples and help you choose the best option for your property and climate.

Q20

What's the best type of fence for waterfront properties on the Fraser River?

For waterfront properties along the Fraser River, the best fence choices are marine-grade materials that can handle constant moisture exposure, salt air from the estuary, wind load, and potential flood contact — with aluminum or galvanized steel fencing being the most durable option, followed closely by quality vinyl and properly maintained Western Red Cedar. The Fraser River corridor from Richmond and Delta through New Westminster, Burnaby, Coquitlam, Pitt Meadows, Maple Ridge, and into the Fraser Valley presents unique fencing challenges that differ significantly from standard residential installations elsewhere in Metro Vancouver.

Aluminum ornamental fencing is the premium choice for Fraser River waterfront properties. Powder-coated aluminum is completely impervious to moisture, does not rust, does not rot, is unaffected by salt air from the river estuary, and maintains its structural integrity indefinitely with zero maintenance. Quality aluminum fencing costs $45 to $90 per linear foot installed, which is higher than wood upfront but eliminates all maintenance costs over its 30+ year lifespan. For waterfront properties where replacement and repair access may be difficult (steep banks, riparian zones, flood-prone areas), the install-and-forget durability of aluminum is particularly valuable. Black powder-coated aluminum with simple picket or flat-top styling complements waterfront architecture and maintains sight lines to the river.

Vinyl (PVC) fencing is the second-best option for Fraser River waterfront locations. Like aluminum, vinyl doesn't absorb moisture, won't rot, and requires no staining or sealing. It's impervious to the higher humidity and mist that's constant near the river. At $35 to $70 per linear foot installed, vinyl offers good value for waterfront applications. The main concern with vinyl near the Fraser is **wind load** — vinyl privacy panels are relatively lightweight and can flex or detach in strong winds that funnel along the river corridor. Use heavy-duty vinyl panel systems with reinforced posts (steel or aluminum inserts rather than wood) and closer post spacing (6 feet rather than 8 feet) in exposed waterfront locations.

Western Red Cedar remains a viable choice for Fraser River properties if you accept the higher maintenance commitment. Cedar's natural rot resistance gives it a significant advantage over pressure-treated lumber in high-moisture environments, and its beauty is hard to match with synthetic materials. For waterfront cedar fences, several upgrades are essential: use **6x6 posts** rather than 4x4 (the extra mass resists wind load and the thicker post wall provides more rot resistance); set posts in concrete with **generous gravel drainage beds** (6 inches minimum below and around the post base); use **stainless steel fasteners exclusively** (not galvanized — the salt air and moisture near the Fraser will corrode even hot-dipped galvanized fasteners within 5 to 10 years); and commit to **staining or sealing every 2 years** rather than the 2 to 3 year cycle typical for inland Metro Vancouver fences.

Chain-link with vinyl coating is a practical and affordable option for Fraser River properties, particularly for longer fence runs where material cost adds up. Vinyl-coated chain-link (in black, green, or brown) resists rust from moisture and salt air far better than plain galvanized chain-link. At $20 to $45 per linear foot installed, it's the most budget-friendly permanent fencing option for waterfront properties. Chain-link's open mesh design also minimizes wind load — a significant advantage in the exposed river corridor. For partial privacy, add vinyl slats or privacy screening to the chain-link.

Specific Fraser River waterfront considerations that affect fence design include:

Floodplain regulations. Many properties along the Fraser River are within designated floodplain areas governed by municipal flood management bylaws. Richmond, Delta, Pitt Meadows, and parts of Coquitlam and New

Westminster have specific construction requirements for structures in floodplain zones. While fences are generally less regulated than buildings, solid fences in flood-prone areas can trap debris, redirect flood water onto neighbouring properties, and create safety hazards during flood events. Check with your municipality's engineering or planning department before installing fencing in a designated floodplain.

Riparian setbacks. Properties directly on the Fraser River bank are subject to the BC Riparian Areas Protection Regulation, which establishes setback zones from the river's high-water mark. Construction activities — including fence post hole digging — within the riparian setback area may require environmental assessment and approval from the local municipality and potentially the provincial government. Disturbing riparian zones without approval can result in significant fines under BC's environmental legislation.

Erosion and bank stability. The Fraser River's banks are subject to erosion, particularly during spring freshet (the annual high-water period from May through July when snowmelt swells the river). Setting fence posts too close to an eroding bank risks losing posts as the bank retreats. Set fences at least 3 to 5 metres back from the bank edge where possible, and consult a geotechnical professional if you're unsure about bank stability on your property.

Wildlife considerations. The Fraser River corridor is a critical habitat for salmon, birds, and other wildlife. Fences that extend to the water's edge can obstruct wildlife movement corridors. Open-style fences (aluminum, chain-link, or spaced board designs) are preferable to solid privacy fences in waterfront locations for both wildlife passage and flood resilience.

Vancouver Fence Builders can connect you with contractors who have specific experience with waterfront fence installations along the Fraser River and throughout Metro Vancouver's coastal areas.

Q21

Should I use galvanized or stainless steel screws for my fence in Metro Vancouver?

For most residential fence installations in Metro Vancouver, hot-dipped galvanized screws are the practical choice — they provide excellent corrosion resistance at a fraction of the cost of stainless steel and will outlast the fence itself in the vast majority of applications. Stainless steel screws are the premium option that makes sense in specific high-exposure situations, but they're overkill and unnecessarily expensive for a typical backyard cedar or pressure-treated fence in Burnaby, Surrey, or most of the Lower Mainland.

The key distinction is between **three types of galvanized fasteners**, because the word "galvanized" covers a wide range of corrosion protection:

Electro-galvanized (EG) screws have a very thin zinc coating (typically 5 to 8 microns) applied through an electroplating process. These are the cheapest galvanized option and are commonly sold in bulk at building supply stores. **Do not use electro-galvanized screws for outdoor fencing in Metro Vancouver.** The thin zinc coating will corrode through within 1 to 3 years in Vancouver's wet climate, leaving exposed steel that rusts rapidly, stains the wood with ugly orange-brown streaks, and loses holding power. This is the number one fastener mistake homeowners make on fence projects — buying the cheap box of screws without checking the galvanizing type.

Hot-dipped galvanized (HDG) screws have a much thicker zinc coating (typically 40 to 85 microns) applied by dipping the fastener in molten zinc. The coating is rough and visible — HDG screws look bumpy and silver-grey rather than smooth and shiny like electro-galvanized. This thick coating provides 15 to 25 years of corrosion protection in Metro Vancouver's marine climate, which exceeds the lifespan of most fence boards and rails. HDG screws are the industry standard for professional fence installation in the Lower Mainland. A box of 100 HDG fence screws (typically #8 or #9 x 2.5 to 3 inch) costs $15 to $30 at Metro Vancouver building supply stores.

Stainless steel screws (typically 304 or 316 grade) are impervious to rust and corrosion under virtually all conditions. **304 stainless** is suitable for most Metro Vancouver residential fence applications — it resists corrosion from rain, humidity, and mild salt air. **316 stainless** (marine grade) is designed for direct saltwater exposure and is only necessary for fences within metres of ocean water or in industrial environments with chemical exposure. A box of 100 stainless steel fence screws costs $35 to $70 — roughly double to triple the cost of HDG screws.

When hot-dipped galvanized is the right choice (which is most of the time):

Standard residential fences in Metro Vancouver — rear yard cedar privacy fences, side yard boundary fences, pressure-treated fences — perform perfectly with HDG screws for the 15 to 25 year lifespan of the fence. The total fastener cost for a typical 100-linear-foot fence is $50 to $120 for HDG versus $120 to $280 for stainless steel. That $70 to $160 savings is meaningful, and the HDG screws will still be sound when the fence boards themselves need replacement.

When stainless steel is worth the premium:

Waterfront properties along the Fraser River estuary, Burrard Inlet, or English Bay where salt air accelerates corrosion of zinc coatings. Properties on the North Shore (West Vancouver, North Vancouver) exposed to ocean mist. Fences using **Western Red Cedar** — this is an important chemical interaction. Cedar's natural tannic acid reacts with zinc in galvanized fasteners, creating dark black staining around every screw head. The staining is cosmetic, not structural, but it's conspicuous on new cedar and takes years to weather out. Stainless steel does not react with cedar tannins and produces zero staining. If you're spending premium money on clear-grade cedar for a high-visibility fence, stainless steel screws protect your investment in the wood's appearance.

Fences using **ACQ-treated pressure-treated lumber** also benefit from stainless steel. ACQ (Alkaline Copper Quaternary), the most common pressure treatment chemical used in Canada since CCA was restricted, is more corrosive to metals than the old CCA treatment. Hot-dipped galvanized fasteners are rated as compatible with ACQ-treated wood, but their lifespan is reduced by 20 to 30% compared to use in untreated wood. Stainless steel fasteners are completely unaffected by ACQ chemistry.

Practical buying tips for Metro Vancouver homeowners: Always check the packaging for the words "hot-dipped galvanized" or the abbreviation "HDG" — if it just says "galvanized" or "zinc-plated" without specifying the method, it's almost certainly electro-galvanized and unsuitable for outdoor fencing in Vancouver's climate. For the best holding power, choose **structural screws or fence screws** rather than deck screws or drywall screws — fence-specific screws have aggressive threads designed for softwood, flat heads that sit flush with the board face, and are available in HDG and stainless steel from all major Metro Vancouver building supply stores. And always **pre-drill** when using stainless steel screws in cedar or hardwood — stainless screws are harder than galvanized and more prone to snapping the head off if driven into dense wood without a pilot hole.

Need help finding a fence contractor who uses the right fasteners and materials for your project? Vancouver Fence Builders can match you with experienced professionals across Metro Vancouver for free.

Q22

Can I use reclaimed or salvaged wood for fencing in Metro Vancouver?

Yes, you can use reclaimed or salvaged wood for fencing in Metro Vancouver, but success depends heavily on the wood's condition, species, and your willingness to invest in proper preparation and treatment. Reclaimed wood can create stunning, unique fences with character that new lumber lacks, but Metro Vancouver's wet climate makes material selection and preparation absolutely critical.

Reclaimed wood fencing works best when you source quality materials from reputable salvage yards, demolition companies, or architectural salvage specialists in the Lower Mainland. Old-growth Douglas Fir beams, barn wood, and reclaimed cedar from demolished structures often have superior grain and density compared to new lumber. However, you must carefully inspect every piece for structural integrity, rot, insect damage, and embedded metal like nails or screws that could damage saw blades during cutting.

The biggest challenge with reclaimed wood in Metro Vancouver is **moisture resistance and longevity**. Even if the salvaged lumber looks solid, it may have lost its natural rot resistance over decades of exposure. Old cedar that has weathered to grey may still have good structural integrity, but the protective oils that resist moisture and insects have likely diminished. Reclaimed Douglas Fir or other species that weren't naturally rot-resistant when new will be even more vulnerable to Metro Vancouver's 1,200mm+ annual rainfall.

Proper preparation is essential for reclaimed wood fencing success. Every piece should be cleaned, inspected, and treated with a high-quality wood preservative before installation. This includes removing old nails and hardware, sanding rough surfaces, and applying end-cut sealer to any cuts you make during installation. Many reclaimed wood projects in Metro Vancouver fail within 5-7 years because homeowners skip this preparation step, assuming the wood's age means it's already weatherproof.

Cost considerations make reclaimed wood fencing complex. While salvaged lumber might seem cheaper than new cedar at $2-8 per board foot from salvage yards, the labour involved in cleaning, preparing, and installing irregular pieces often exceeds the material savings. Professional installation of reclaimed wood typically costs $50-$90 per linear foot for a 6-foot privacy fence — similar to or higher than premium new cedar — because contractors must spend extra time sorting, measuring, and fitting irregular pieces.

Structural limitations also affect reclaimed wood fencing. Salvaged lumber often comes in non-standard dimensions that don't match modern fence hardware and post spacing. You might find beautiful 1x8 barn boards but struggle to source matching rails and posts. Mixing reclaimed boards with new cedar posts and rails is common, but creates maintenance challenges since different woods weather and move at different rates.

Building code compliance remains the same regardless of material age. Reclaimed wood fences must still meet municipal height limits and structural requirements. If your reclaimed lumber includes treated railway ties or industrial timber, be aware that older pressure treatments may contain chemicals no longer approved for residential use. Always verify that salvaged materials are appropriate for residential fencing applications.

Best practices for reclaimed wood fencing in Metro Vancouver include using it for accent sections rather than entire fence runs, combining it with new cedar posts and framework for structural integrity, and planning for more frequent maintenance. A popular approach is using reclaimed boards for feature panels or gate faces while building the main fence structure with new materials.

When reclaimed wood works well is for homeowners who value unique character over longevity and are committed to regular maintenance. Reclaimed wood fences often need re-sealing annually rather than every 2-3 years like new cedar, and individual board replacement is more common as pieces weather differently.

Professional installation is strongly recommended for reclaimed wood fencing because of the additional complexity in material preparation, irregular sizing, and structural considerations. A skilled fence contractor can assess whether your salvaged materials are suitable for Metro Vancouver's climate and design a fence that maximizes both appearance and longevity.

Need help finding a fence contractor experienced with reclaimed materials? Vancouver Fence Builders can match you with professionals who understand the unique challenges of working with salvaged lumber in Metro Vancouver's wet climate.

Q23

What are the best fence options for a waterfront property in Delta BC?

Waterfront properties in Delta require fences that can withstand constant moisture, salt air exposure, and strong winds while maintaining their appearance and structural integrity. The best options are vinyl/PVC fencing, aluminum ornamental fencing, and properly treated Western Red Cedar with enhanced protection measures.

Vinyl fencing is the top choice for Delta waterfront properties because it's completely impervious to moisture, salt spray, and humidity. Unlike wood, vinyl won't absorb water, warp, crack, or develop rot even in the harsh marine environment along the Fraser River, Boundary Bay, or Roberts Bank. Quality vinyl fencing costs $35-$70 per linear foot installed and requires virtually zero maintenance beyond occasional washing. The initial investment pays off quickly when you consider that wood fences in waterfront locations often need replacement every 8-12

years due to accelerated deterioration from salt and moisture exposure.

Aluminum ornamental fencing is another excellent waterfront option, particularly for front yards or decorative applications where privacy isn't the primary concern. Marine-grade aluminum with powder coating resists corrosion from salt air and provides an elegant appearance that complements waterfront homes. Expect to pay $45-$90 per linear foot installed. The powder coating should be inspected annually and touched up if scratched to prevent corrosion from starting at damage points.

Western Red Cedar can work on waterfront properties but requires enhanced protection. Cedar's natural oils provide some resistance to moisture and insects, but the constant humidity and salt exposure in Delta's waterfront areas will accelerate weathering and greying. If choosing cedar, specify marine-grade stain or sealant applied immediately after installation, then reapplied annually rather than the typical 2-3 year cycle for inland properties. Board-on-board (shadowbox) design is strongly recommended because it allows wind to pass through while maintaining privacy—critical for waterfront locations that experience strong winds off the water.

Avoid pressure-treated wood entirely in waterfront locations. While pressure-treated lumber resists rot through chemical treatment, the chemicals can leach out over time when exposed to constant moisture, and the wood will still warp, crack, and grey rapidly in marine environments. The savings aren't worth the shortened lifespan and maintenance headaches.

Post installation requires special attention on waterfront properties. The combination of soft, often saturated soil and wind exposure means posts must be set deeper than standard—minimum 2.5-3 feet deep for 6-foot fences, with 6x6 posts recommended over 4x4s for better wind resistance. Use concrete footings with gravel drainage beds to prevent water from pooling around post bases. For properties with very soft or sandy soil near the water, consider helical pier foundations or larger concrete footings.

Wind considerations are critical in Delta's waterfront areas. Properties along Boundary Bay, the Fraser River, and Tsawwassen face strong winds, particularly during winter storms. Solid privacy fences act as wind sails and can fail if not properly engineered. Consider reducing fence height to 5 feet instead of 6 feet in extremely exposed locations, or use semi-open designs like horizontal slat fences with gaps between boards.

Municipal regulations in Delta allow maximum 1.83 metres (6 feet) in rear and side yards, with 1.22 metres (4 feet) in front yards. However, some waterfront properties may have additional restrictions through the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) or environmental protection zones. Always confirm with Delta's planning department before installation, as waterfront properties often have unique setback requirements from the high-water mark.

Maintenance scheduling is crucial for any fence material in waterfront locations. Plan annual inspections for hardware corrosion, post stability, and coating integrity. Even low-maintenance materials like vinyl and aluminum benefit from regular cleaning to remove salt buildup that can cause long-term degradation.

Professional installation is strongly recommended for waterfront fencing due to the challenging soil conditions, wind load calculations, and specialized hardware requirements. The marine environment is unforgiving of installation shortcuts—proper post depth, concrete work, and drainage are essential for long-term performance.

Need help finding a fence contractor experienced with waterfront properties? Vancouver Fence Builders can match you with Delta-area professionals who understand the unique challenges of marine environments and can recommend the best materials for your specific waterfront location.

Q24

What's the lifespan of different fence types in Vancouver's climate?

In Metro Vancouver's wet marine climate, fence lifespans vary dramatically by material — from 15-25+ years for properly maintained Western Red Cedar down to 5-8 years for untreated or poorly installed wood fences. Vancouver's 1,200+ mm of annual rainfall, persistent humidity, and mild winters that promote year-round biological growth make this one of the toughest climates in Canada for wood fencing.

Western Red Cedar is the gold standard for wood fencing in Metro Vancouver and for good reason. Properly installed and maintained cedar fences last **15-25 years**, with some exceptionally well-cared-for fences lasting 30+ years. Cedar's natural oils repel insects and resist decay, and the wood is dimensionally stable — it doesn't warp or twist as dramatically as other species when cycling between wet and dry. The key word is "maintained." An unfinished cedar fence left to weather naturally in Metro Vancouver will still last 12-18 years structurally, but it will turn grey within 6-12 months and develop surface checking, moss growth, and eventual soft spots. **Staining or sealing every 2-3 years** extends cedar's lifespan significantly and keeps it looking its best. Posts are always the weak point — even cedar posts set directly in concrete without gravel drainage can rot at the ground line within 8-12 years. Gravel drainage beds below and around the post base are essential.

Pressure-treated wood fences last **12-20 years** in Metro Vancouver depending on the treatment level, installation quality, and maintenance. The chemical treatment resists rot and insect damage, but it does not prevent surface weathering, checking, cracking, or greying. Pressure-treated fences in Vancouver's climate need sealing every 2-3 years to maintain appearance and slow surface degradation. The main failure point is the same as cedar — post rot at or below grade level where moisture concentrates. Pressure-treated posts with proper gravel drainage last 15-20 years. Without drainage, expect 8-12 years before they soften and the fence begins to lean.

Vinyl (PVC) fencing is the longevity champion in Metro Vancouver, lasting **25-40+ years** with virtually zero maintenance. Vinyl doesn't absorb moisture, rot, warp, split, or support moss or algae growth in the way wood does. Quality vinyl fence systems from reputable manufacturers carry 20-30 year or lifetime warranties. The only

maintenance required is occasional washing with a garden hose to remove surface dirt. Vinyl's weakness in Metro Vancouver is more aesthetic than structural — lower-quality vinyl can yellow slightly with prolonged UV exposure, and white vinyl shows dirt and algae staining more readily than darker colours. Premium vinyl with UV inhibitors and titanium dioxide additives resists these issues. Vinyl also becomes slightly more brittle in cold temperatures, but Metro Vancouver rarely sees the extreme cold that causes vinyl cracking.

Chain-link fencing with galvanized coating lasts **20-30 years** in Metro Vancouver. The galvanized steel resists rust well, though over decades the zinc coating gradually wears, especially at contact points and where the fence is scratched or damaged. Vinyl-coated chain-link (available in black, green, and brown) adds both aesthetics and corrosion protection, extending lifespan to **25-35 years**. Chain-link posts set in concrete are essentially permanent — the mesh and hardware wear out long before properly set posts. The main failure modes are rust at the bottom rail near ground contact, sagging or stretching of the mesh from impact or snow load, and corrosion at fitting points.

Aluminum ornamental fencing lasts **30-50+ years** because aluminum doesn't rust and powder coating provides excellent weather resistance. In Metro Vancouver's salt-air-adjacent coastal areas (West Vancouver, parts of North Vancouver, Richmond near the water), aluminum's corrosion resistance gives it a significant advantage over steel alternatives. The powder coating may need refreshing after 15-20 years for cosmetic reasons, but structural integrity remains excellent for decades.

What Shortens Fence Life in Metro Vancouver

The most common premature fence failures in Metro Vancouver come down to installation shortcuts rather than material choice. **Shallow post holes** (less than 2 feet for a 6-foot fence) lead to leaning within 2-3 years. **Missing gravel drainage** traps water against post bases and accelerates rot by 30-50%. **Wrong fasteners** — standard steel nails or screws instead of galvanized or stainless — rust, stain the wood, and lose holding power within a few years. **Skipping end-cut sealer** on cut board ends exposes untreated wood to moisture penetration. And **never staining or sealing** a wood fence in this climate is essentially halving its potential lifespan.

The bottom line for Metro Vancouver homeowners: invest in quality installation with proper post depth, gravel drainage, and corrosion-resistant fasteners, then commit to a 2-3 year staining cycle for wood fences. The difference between a 10-year fence and a 25-year fence is often just a few hundred dollars in installation details and a weekend of staining every couple of years.

Q25

What's the best fence for a sloped lot with a view in West Vancouver?

The best fence for a sloped lot with a view in West Vancouver is typically a horizontal cable rail, open aluminum, or low-profile glass panel system that follows the grade while preserving sightlines — with the specific choice depending on your slope steepness, privacy needs, wind exposure, and budget. West Vancouver's hillside properties are among the most valuable in Metro Vancouver precisely because of their views, and installing the wrong fence can significantly diminish both your enjoyment and your property value.

West Vancouver presents **unique fencing challenges** that don't exist on flat suburban lots. Many properties have slopes of 15 to 40% or steeper, meaning the fence must either step down in level panels or rack (angle) continuously with the grade. Wind exposure on West Vancouver's hillsides is significantly higher than in sheltered areas — winter outflow winds from the North Shore mountains can gust to 80-100 km/h, and any solid fence panel acts as a wind sail that can blow over or pull posts out of the ground. Rocky soil is common, often requiring a jackhammer or rock drill to set post holes, which adds $20 to $50 per post hole to the installation cost.

Horizontal cable rail fencing is one of the most popular choices for view lots in West Vancouver. This design uses sturdy posts (typically steel or heavy timber) with horizontal stainless steel cables tensioned between them. It provides a clear safety barrier without blocking views, handles slopes naturally because the cables simply follow the grade, and offers excellent wind resistance because wind passes through freely. Costs run $60 to $120 per linear foot installed, depending on post material and cable spacing. The cables need periodic re-tensioning — once or twice a year — as temperature changes cause slight expansion and contraction.

Ornamental aluminum fencing with vertical pickets is another excellent view-preserving option. Aluminum is lightweight, rust-proof, maintenance-free, and available in low-profile designs that are nearly invisible from a distance. Powder-coated in black, bronze, or dark green, aluminum fencing blends into the landscape rather than obstructing it. On slopes, aluminum panels can be racked (angled to follow the grade) up to about 30 degrees, or stepped for steeper terrain. Costs range from $50 to $100 per linear foot installed for residential-grade aluminum on sloped terrain.

Tempered glass panel fencing is the premium option for West Vancouver view lots. Glass panels mounted in aluminum or stainless steel frames provide an unobstructed view while serving as a wind barrier — a significant advantage on exposed hillsides where wind protection is desirable. This is the most expensive option at $150 to $350 per linear foot installed, and it requires periodic cleaning to maintain clarity. Glass panels must meet the BC Building Code requirements for safety glazing and are typically 10mm to 12mm tempered glass.

For lots where some **privacy is needed without sacrificing the view entirely**, consider a mixed-height approach. A 6-foot cedar privacy fence along the side property lines (where neighbours are close) combined with a low cable rail or glass panel along the rear boundary where the view is creates the best of both worlds. This is a common and effective strategy on West Vancouver's hillside lots.

On steep slopes specifically, the fence must be either **stepped or racked**. Stepped fencing uses level panels that drop down at each post, creating a stair-step appearance. This works well with solid panel fences and maintains a clean, structured look. Racked fencing angles each panel to follow the slope continuously, which works with picket-style, cable rail, and aluminum fencing but not with solid privacy panels (the boards would be cut at an angle). For slopes steeper than about 20%, stepped construction is generally more practical and attractive for solid panels.

Given West Vancouver's **rocky, steep terrain and high wind exposure**, professional installation is essential. Post holes on rocky hillsides often require specialized drilling equipment, and the structural engineering for wind resistance on exposed lots demands experience. A fence that blows down on a West Vancouver hillside can damage landscaping, roll downhill, and create costly problems far beyond just replacing the fence.

The District of West Vancouver has specific bylaws regarding fence height, and properties near cliffs, ravines, or watercourses may have additional setback or safety requirements. Always confirm with West Vancouver's building department before starting. Find experienced fence contractors through the Vancouver Construction Network directory at vancouverconstructionnetwork.com/directory?trade=fencing.
