

Temporary Construction Fencing

Take a look at any construction site, and you'll probably be looking through or over one of the most important, yet under-rated products in the construction industry: Temporary fencing.

Ontario's Occupational Health and Safety Act requires "if work on a project may endanger a person using a public way, a sturdy fence at least 1.8 meters in height shall be constructed between the public way and the project." (O. Reg. 213/91, s. 65)

TYPES OF FENCING



Chain link fencing

Interwoven metal wire creating a "diamond" pattern. The mesh is secured to the frame using steel components.



Welded wire panels

Crisssed-crossed metal wire creating a "rectangular" pattern. The mesh is welded at every intersection, and directly to the frame.



Both styles of fencing offer a sturdy and effective barrier for construction projects

OPTIONS

Ground supports: Temporary panels are typically supported by steel ground stands, which can be bolted to the ground if necessary. Fencing can be further stabilized with t-posts.

Privacy screening: For added site privacy, screening can be applied to the fence. Fence screening is typically made of opaque polyethylene knit, and is secured to the fence with cable ties or wire. It is available in a variety of colours.

BENEFITS

Low maintenance: Galvanized steel fencing will not rust, rot or burn. Panels are suitable for hanging company signage, but are entirely unsuitable to vandals as a surface for graffiti and/or unauthorized posterage.

Functionality: Steel mesh fencing is less susceptible to wind hazards than steel and plywood hoarding. The wind flows through the fence, rather than creating a topple-hazard. The



construction site also remains visible through the fence, which is a real deterrent to thieves. Welded wire fencing offers additional stability, since the often narrow wire spacing makes it virtually impossible to climb.

Appearance. Unlike plywood hoarding and snow fencing which quickly becomes shabby and worn, steel mesh fencing is easily cleaned and repaired. Screening can be purchased to provide dust protection and add extra privacy to a site. (Keep in mind, screening may cause a toppling-hazard in high winds, so screened fence should be well-secured to the ground.)

Flexibility and ease of assembly. Temporary steel mesh fence panels are commonly available in 10 and 12 foot lengths. They offer sturdy site protection, but because the panels are not affixed to the ground with concrete and posts, they can be moved and reconfigured as required through the course of a project. Steel mesh fence panels are easy to install, and are usually mounted on a steel foot, and secured with metal clamps or top clips. And, unlike continuous mesh fencing, if one panel is damaged, you need only replace the panel, rather than a long length of fence.

Environmental considerations. Unlike plywood hoarding and snow fencing which is unusable if damaged, steel mesh fencing can be repaired. Good quality steel mesh fencing is re-usable for many years, and can be recycled at the end of its life.

RENT VS. BUY

Brent Newburg, Operations Manager for Fast Fence Inc. explains how many of his construction customers prefer to rent fencing rather than maintain their own inventories: “Our rental customers like the benefit of not having to worry about maintaining and storing panels between jobs. They would rather focus their crews on the construction job at hand, rather than taking time to transport, install and dismantle their own panels. We offer a full-service rental solution: We deliver, we install, we dismantle and we take the fence away at the end of the project. This allows our customers to focus on what they do best.”

Toronto-based Fast Fence Inc. has been serving Southern Ontario’s temporary fence needs for over 20 years and offers a wide variety of temporary fence products for construction and demolition sites, residential renovations, and special events. For more information on temporary fence rentals and sales, visit www.fastfence.ca.