

## Deciding on Ornamental Fences

Contributed by Kyle

Monday, 18 June 2007

Last Updated Thursday, 13 September 2007

When you are choosing an ornamental fence, you certainly do not want to skimp on security concerns. If you combine materials, spacing, height, and style correctly, you will have an ornamental fence that at once provides you with the security that you need.

{mosgoogle left} When considering materials, steel is the most commonly used one for ornamental fences. However, people are finding out that aluminum works very well and is very attractive, too. Although steel is definitely stronger, aluminum has more resistance to corrosion and requires less maintenance to keep up. Should you choose to go with steel, you want to get a fence that has a polyester powder coat for its finish. Steel ornamental fences typically need touching up with paint annually and they can begin showing signs of rust rather early on. If you live in a harsh climate where the winters are hard, or if you live in a coastal environment, then you'll want to go with aluminum for your material on your ornamental fence.

When looking into ornamental fences, consider the amount of maintenance you're willing to put into its upkeep in making your selection. Welded and painted steel fences are the highest maintenance of all. They require wire brushing and a re-application of the paint annually. Steel fences that have been assembled with components have a resistant powder-coat for their finish, and this is put over the galvanized steel to prevent the ugly red of rust from formulating. Many of these should last without need for much maintenance at all for a good 10 years or even longer. On aluminum ornamental fences, manufacturers routinely give lifetime warranties on the coating.

The great thing about ornamental fences, and the biggest reason for getting one, is that they afford you the opportunity to customize them. This customization needless to say allows you to make them blend in flawlessly with your architecture or landscaping, or even enhance them. Finials, rings, the metal shaped to look like such things as grapevines or fruits or animals, and other things that you can think of allow you to make your ornamental fence into a work of art and express who you are.

The most important part of a fence is its gate, so don't skimp on the attention you give to your fence's only moving part. Gates are available for either contrasting or matching up with the rest of your fence. Some fence owners want the gate to be the showpiece of their entire fence, while others simply want it to blend in seamlessly. Go with what is most appealing to your tastes.