

# Safer Deer Fencing

A Guide to Reducing Human-Wildlife Conflict



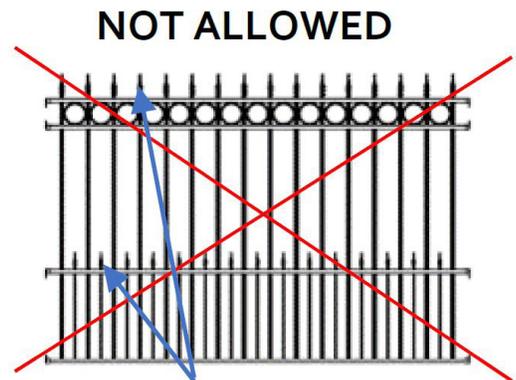
Fencing that is installed without consideration for wildlife can lead to unnecessary pain, suffering, and death for these animals. Every year, the Conservation Officer Service responds to calls of deer that have become impaled on decorative wrought-iron fences and have the gruesome task of euthanizing and removing those animals.



**White-tailed and mule deer draw their legs under their bodies as they leap a fence. If one, or both, of their hind legs fail to clear the top rail, the legs may catch between the top two rails as the deer continues over the fence. If a deer gets entangled in this manner they often become severely injured and die as a result.**

Since over 20 deer are killed every year in the Okanagan as a result of these types of fences, the City of Kelowna has introduced a bylaw prohibiting the use of fences with pickets or finials extending beyond the horizontal rail.

While this bylaw only applies to new construction, there are easy solutions for current fence owners to use to help prevent needless suffering to wildlife.



Pickets/finials shall not extend above a horizontal rail



WildSafeBC Guide:  
Safer Deer Fences  
Version 1.0 2021

Learn more about  
**BC wildlife and safety at**  
**wildsafebc.com**

**R.A.P.P.**  
Report All Poachers and Polluters  
Conservation Officer 24 Hour Hotline  
1-877-952-RAPP (7277)  
Cellular Dial - #7277 on Telus network  
www.rapp.bc.ca

Report all conflicts with  
wildlife to the  
Conservation Officer Service  
**RAPP Line**

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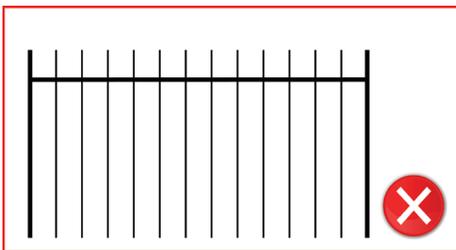


British Columbia Conservation Foundation

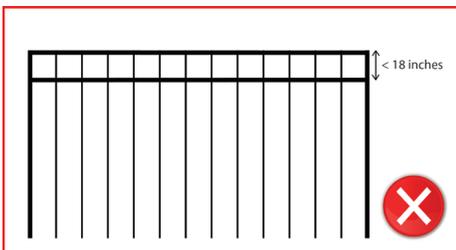
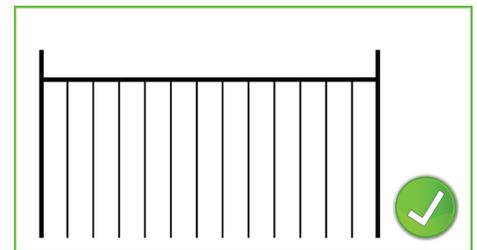


Before erecting any fencing, check with local bylaws. To exclude deer, use chain-link or woven-wire fencing that is at least 2.5 m high on level with the ground. Solid fences can be lower at 1.5 m since deer are less likely to jump into an area they cannot see. Flexible mesh netting can also be used for individual plants but ensure deer cannot become entangled. Chicken wire can be used to wrap around trees and prevent deer from rubbing. In winter, shrubs and plants can be wrapped in burlap to prevent browsing.

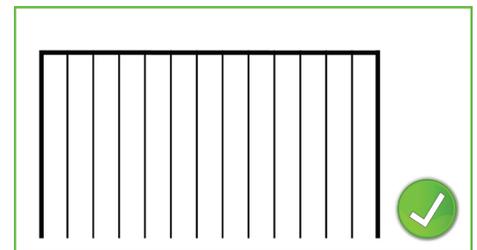
Most deer are injured or killed December through April. A temporary solution is to place a board across the top to cover the pickets, finials or double rails that can lead to impalement or entanglement.



**Remove pickets and/or finials to prevent impalement.**



**Remove bottom rail to prevent entanglement.**



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[wildsafebc.com](http://wildsafebc.com)



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