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Fence-mending time

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Have a fence that is in need of repair?

If it's a small job, you might be able to do it yourself. If you're looking at a large area of fencing that needs to be replaced, and it's more than 5 years old, it might be more cost-effective to replace the entire fence.

There is a range of fencing options, from chain link to wood, PVC, steel, wrought iron and aluminum. Consider your budget, the style of your home and the purpose of the fence.

Mark Legel, owner and sales manager for Raatz Fence Co. in Louisville, Ky., says the first question he asks homeowners picking out a new fence is whether they have any restrictions in their neighborhood. Some areas only allow 4-foot-tall fences, for instance.

"If someone has a dog, I ask them how big their dog is, because if it's big enough, then you don't have to worry about them getting out between the spaces in a spaced wood fence," he says. "If the purpose of the fence is to establish boundary lines, then you can put up a simple split rail fence with two rails and posts."

Composite material, also used in decking, is available for fences. It is low-maintenance and doesn't need to be painted, unlike wood fencing. TimberTech manufactures FenceScape, which is available nationwide. It's typically used for privacy fences in 6- and 8-foot heights, although a picket fence style in a 4-foot height is also available.

Four-board fences, such as those seen on horse farms, are growing in popularity. They're surprisingly affordable, too.

Gregg Griffith, owner of Penrod Lumber & Fence Co. in Simpsonville, Ky., says his price for a four-board fence is \$4.50 to \$6 a linear foot, depending on the size of the job.
