

# 17 Things You Must Know Before You Choose a Brush Fencing Contractor in Sydney



# Table of Contents

How To Find A Good Brush Fencing Professional In The Sydney Area .	3
Steps To Finding A Good Brushwood Fencer .....	4
Ask Others For A Referral .....	4
Conduct A Broader Search .....	5
Steps To Hiring a Fencing Contractor .....	6
Ask Questions .....	6
Will they level areas and remove rocks and plants?.....	6
Where are they planning to put the poles? .....	6
What kind of fence panels do they plan to use? What are your options? .....	6
Safety Commitment .....	7
Clean Up.....	7
Ask For a Quote .....	7
Things to Look For in a Qualified Brush Fence Contractor .....	7
Scams to Avoid.....	8
Execute a Contract .....	9
17 Facts You Need To Know About Brush Fences .....	11
Is the design of brush fences fixed? .....	11
Can a brush fence be used for pool fencing?.....	11
How does the price of a brush fence compare to other fencing? ..	12
What materials are brush fences made of?.....	12
How are brush fences constructed? .....	13
Are premade fence panels better than hand-woven fences? .....	13
How long does a brush fence last? .....	14
What happens to a brush fence if you don't maintain the roll top? .....	14
Does a brush fence rot?.....	15
What are the key benefits of a brushwood fence? .....	16
How thick does a brush fence need to be to be effective?.....	16
Does the brush fence provide good wind resistance and shelter? ..	17
Are brush fences a fire hazard? .....	17
Does a brush fence add value to your property? .....	18
How does the brush fence affect the garden and the plants in the garden? .....	18
Does a brush fence contractor the need to be trained? .....	19
How can you identify a poorly constructed brush fence? .....	19

# Copyright Notice

## Legal Notice

While attempts have been made to verify the correctness and reliability of the information provided in this publication, the author and publisher do not assume any responsibilities for errors, omissions, or contradictory information contained in this document.

This WebSite makes no claims, promises, or guarantees about the absolute accuracy, completeness, or adequacy of the contents of this report and expressly disclaims liability for errors and omissions in the contents of this report. No warranty of any kind, implied, expressed, or statutory, including but not limited to the warranties of non-infringement of third party rights, title, merchantability, fitness for a particular purpose, and freedom from computer virus, is given with respect to the contents of this web site or its hyperlinks to other Internet resources. Reference in this web site to any specific commercial products, processes, or services, or the use of any trade, firm, or corporation name is for the information and convenience of the public, and does not constitute endorsement, recommendation, or favoring by the WebSite or its employees or agents.

The author and publisher are not liable for any losses or damages whatsoever, including but not limited to: Damages intended to compensate someone directly for a loss or injury. Damages reasonably expected to result from a loss or injury (known in legal terms as "consequential damages.")

Other miscellaneous damages and expenses resulting directly from a loss or injury (known in legal terms as "incidental damages.") We are not liable even if we've been negligent or if our authorized representative has been advised of the possibility of such damages or both.

The information contained in this document is not intended as advice, legal, financial or otherwise, and are provided for educational purposes only. You are highly encouraged to seek the advice of a competent professional when applicable.

The reader of this report assumes all responsibility and liability for the use of these materials and information. Roofinghelponline.com assumes no responsibility or liability whatsoever on behalf of the reader of these materials.

## Additional Notice and Disclaimers

No guarantees, promises or suggestions of any results are made, whether implied or stated from this information. Individual results may vary from those discussed, and everything herein is provided on an "at your own risk" basis.

While the authors have done their best to make sure you enjoy this report, certain grammatical and typographical errors may still exist. Any such error, or any perceived slight of a specific person or organization, is purely unintentional. Wherever the neuter is not used, any one gender was chosen for simplicity's sake. This document was created with the hope that the reader finds its content useful and not analyzed for the purposes of gender equality, language correctness or writing style.

# How to Find a Good Brush Fencing Professional in the Sydney Area

So you have decided it is time to bring in a professional to build or repair a brushwood fence at your home. Whether you are doing a new install or a repair there are many things to consider when making this important decision.

The purpose of this report is the help you to select the right professional to complete your job and to help you to attain a good quality brush fence when working with the brush fencing tradesman you choose.

## Steps to Finding a Good Brushwood Fencer

### Ask Others for a Referral

The best place to start asking about brushwood fencing contractors is your family and friends. Given that building or repairing a brushwood fence is not a regular event like plumbing they may not have any contacts - but it's worth asking in any case.

Other good sources of referrals include other fencing contractors (e.g. people who put up Colourbond fences etc, real estate agents and your local timber store. When asking for referrals, be sure to check the type of job the fencing contractor was called in to accomplish. Also, determine if the contractor specializes in residential or commercial work.

If you do find someone who can provide a referral, here are some questions to ask them about the tradesperson:

1. Were you happy with the quality of work provided by the brushwood fencing contractor?
2. Did the contractor protect other surfaces or areas while working? This includes concrete, lawns and plantings. If a fencer was sloppy with one customer chances are they will be sloppy with all of them. If you are left to clean up after your fence was completed this will cost you more time, money and frustration.
3. Were they courteous and polite? This is a very important consideration. The entire experience, from beginning to end, needs to be as stress free as possible. Plus if the fencing contractor enjoys their job, the quality and attention to details will be better. The customer's attitude can and will affect the entire job. Hopefully this will be the first question you ask. If

the answer to this question is "no" then do not go any further, you don't want to work with that person.

4. Can I see the fence they made for you? Everybody has their own ideas of quality, so you should take a look at their brushwood fence and judge for yourself. Pay attention to these aspects
  - The base of the fence is it neat and tidy and does the fence have a base to keep it off the ground.
  - Was the base of the fence cleared properly and were there measures taken to ensure that grass, weeds and plants are kept away from the base of the fence?
  - How well it is wired into place?
  - Is it an even and reasonable thickness?
  - Are the lines straight and was the cap put on well?

## Conduct a Broader Search

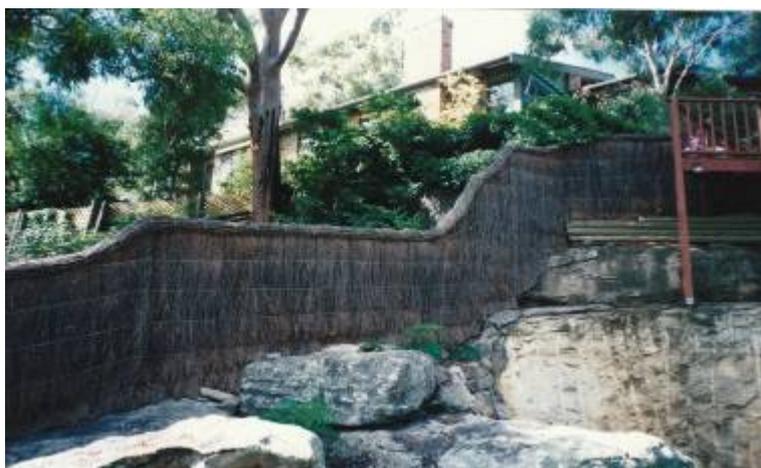
Think about the last time you purchased a car. Chances are you didn't go to the yellow pages, choose a dealership at random, and buy your car from the first car yard you visited. Many times, though, this scenario describes the way homeowners find a fencing contractor - they look in the phone book or yellow pages and call the fencing contractor with the largest ad or the first one listed. But much like purchasing a car, finding a suitable contractor to build or repair your brushwood fence requires research and comparison shopping.

Use TrueLocal.com.au to see what others have to say about this person. If a brushwood fencing contractor has good reviews on TrueLocal then it is a good bet they will do good work for you too.

You can also use the following resources to find a fencing contractor to do your installation or repair:

- The Yellow Pages.
- Local Newspaper Advertising.
- The Internet – A Google search of brushwood fencing Sydney will bring up a list of sites including business who are advertising for your business on Google or other search engines.

## Steps to Hiring a Fencing Contractor



### Ask Questions

How do they plan to prepare the area and structure?

Proper prep work is the key to a long-lasting brushwood fence. Make sure your contractor has a clear plan for preparing the site, and base of the fence line and for placing all the fence posts that support the fence.

Will they level areas and remove rocks and plants?

Many fence lines around Sydney are not level and require preparation. What do they need to remove and where do they need to fill? What parts of the garden are at risk? Will any plants die or need to be removed to accommodate the fence?

Where are they planning to put the poles?

The most common cause of brush fence failure is due to fence sag because the poles are not placed into the ground with enough depth to support the fence over its 40-50 year life span. For this reason you need to know just where the fence support poles are going to go and how far apart they are being spaced.

What kind of fence panels do they plan to use? What are your options?

Some situations suit premade brushwood panels and some don't. Premade panels tend to be stronger, and more consistent in their look than are hand woven panels. However, they are generally not suitable for Sydney's hilly sections. You also need to understand the thickness specifications the fencing contractor will build your

fence to. You don't want to have a fence put up that in two or three years you can see through because it was made poorly.

### Safety Commitment

Accidents can happen with almost any home improvement project. So ask your prospective candidate what steps he or she will take to prevent injuries and property damage. Again if a fencing contractor is good at his work he or she will be able to answer this question with ease.

### Clean Up

Ask the fencing contractor how he or she intends to leave the work area once the job is completed. You don't want to be cleaning up after a fencer for hours after they've left your home. Also, ask about disruption during the project.

### Ask For a Quote

Invite brushwood fencing contractors to look at the job and ask for a quote in writing. In the quote also ask them to specify the time it will take to complete the job. It's not great to try and live in a house that is covered with piles of brushwood and off cuts for weeks. Make sure the contractors are quoting on the same specifications - areas to be fenced, type of fence, the height of the fence and its thickness and so forth.

Take the following steps to find a solid and reliable brush fencing tradesperson in your area:

- Check to make sure that they have a contractor's license.
- Get two or more references.
- Ask how long they have been in business.
- Get at least one other bid for the job to make sure they are not ripping you off.
- Find a fencer that will give you pricing for small jobs over the phone.
- Get flat rate estimates so you know the total you will pay beforehand.

### Things to Look For in a Qualified Brush Fence Contractor

There are a number of qualifications that can set a professional fencing contractor apart. While it is actually quite common for a contractor of other fencing types to cross the boundary and start to

supply services in the brushwood fencing area, they may not be adequately trained or qualified.

Look for the following:

- Insurance -- Be sure that the prospective contractor you are considering is fully insured, having both workers' compensation and liability insurance. Your selected fencing contractor should be able to provide you with a copy of his or her insurance policy. With regard to public liability insurance for property and accidental damage, you should request this information from your chosen contractor and confirm the policy with the relevant insurance company. If the contractor does not have insurance and something goes wrong in the construction phase of your fencing you may be liable for the repairs if the contractor is unable to pay.
- Department of Fair Trade license. The DoFT is a national body that issues licenses to all contractors. When you check to see the contractor has a license, keep in mind that the license needs to specify brushwood fencing.
- OHS Training. Check they have completed the relevant OHS training and carry their OHS card.

Use a contractor who has been in the business of building or repairing brushwood fences for a number of years. That way you can be surer that they know what they are doing. Brush fencing is not as easy to do well as building Colourbond or wooden fences and despite this some contractors who also work in this area try to diversify into brush fencing - occasionally with poor results for the homeowner.

## TIPS

Small business fencing contractors will be much more affordable because their overhead is lower.

If it's a big job, ask a number of brushwood fencing contractors and discard the cheapest and most expensive options. The cheapest will have underestimated and will sting you for it later and the most expensive doesn't really want your business, probably because they have work up to their eyeballs already.

## Scams to Avoid

There are some scams that relate to poor workmanship. Some trades people can offer lower prices in their quotes by taking short

cuts in the building of the fence. The three main areas to watch out for are:

- The base of the fence is not properly prepared. A brush fence needs to be supported to stop the brush material sliding out of the bottom of the fence over time. The base needs to be built in a way that avoids the brush fence coming into constant contact with damp earth or garden beds and it should not be used for retaining purposes.
- The fence itself is poorly or loosely packed. As a guide a hand packed fence should be 50-60mm wide and you should not be able to see daylight through it.
- Roll top not completed to a reasonable thickness.

A second type of scam can happen were itinerant workers pretend to be professional handy men. These house-to-house operators frequently target the elderly, coercing them into awarding a job. The quotations given are normally very low and the work performed, if any, is commonly inferior or unfinished.

In this scam, consumers are expected to stump up with cash for the work to be done before it starts. They are oftentimes hurried into arriving at on-the-spot agreement using some story about a 'special' offer that is valid only for that day because someone in the area cancelled a job.

Once they get the money for the materials, the fake workmen then never return.

## Execute a Contract

Execute a contract specifying the work to be done, total cost, payment schedule, start date and estimated completion date. Make sure the contract includes:

- A commencement date.
- How variations are handled.
- The Guarantee and its conditions and how the brush fencing contractor will make good on it if necessary.
- Who handles the fencing notices / notifications with owners of neighboring properties and who is responsible for payment of the fence and how payment is collected.
- Who is responsible for permits, council and engineering approvals where these are required.
- Who is responsible for providing the correct location of the boundary and fence line and who pays for the cost of surveys to be undertaken if required.

- Who is going to prepare the site and the fence line and how underground obstructions will be handled.
- Your expectations in relation to building a fence around the contours of the ground and maintaining the fence height.
- Who will supply electricity and water necessary for the construction?
- Make sure the contract specifies that the fencing contractor is responsible for cleanup and the removal of off cuts and rubbish from all surfaces (gardens, lawns and the like).

## 17 Facts You Need To Know About Brush Fences

Is the design of brush fences fixed?

No. When you look at how a hand packed brush fence is constructed, you will see that part of the fence are individually cut and placed there. This means that hand packed brush fences are very versatile and they can accommodate sloping sites, stepping around walls, rocks and trees and the height can be adjusted to suit the needs of the site.

Other design features that can be built into a hand packed brush fence are arches, through the fence letterboxes, pillars and tapering to meet gates.

Another design feature commonly seen with brush fences is to build the brush fence on top of, or between brick pillars, stone fencing or retaining walls.

Brushwood fencing is not just for boundry and front fence. It can also be used to hide and divide things in the garden area. For example, brushwood fencing can be used to hide swimming pool pump enclosures or rubbish bins and it can be used for shade houses and garden dividers.

Can a brush fence be used for pool fencing?

Yes. All swimming pools these days are required to have a childproof fence and a secure gate. You will find that your local council has guidelines for swimming pool fences in your area and you should consult them about these requirements.

Generally, you will find that a brushwood fence can be used very successfully as pool fencing and that most professional brush fencing installers will know how to modify the design of their fence to meet the council requirements.

These fences have the benefit of providing shelter and noise protection as well as get additional protection over steel or wooden fencing.

One additional use a brushwood fences is to hide services such as the swimming pool pump or the pool shed and pool surrounds. Remember hand packed brush fencing is very versatile and they can be used on sloping sites and can be tapered around structures such as tree trunks and swimming pool fixtures.

How does the price of a brush fence compare to other fencing?

The cost of the fence will vary with a number of things including the fence style, the length the ground conditions, the access and contour of the land. Fence materials will vary from place to place and will depend on the grade and quality of materials you choose for your fences.

As an indication, some broad fence costs quoted per lineal metre are:

Colourbond fences -- \$70.

Common brick fences -- \$90.

Picket fences -- \$80.

Sandstone wall blocks -- \$150-\$450.

Frameless glass fences -- from \$250 per panel.

Brushwood fences – from \$170.

What materials are brush fences made of?

Brush fences are made from natural brush wood or broom bush from a native plant in the Melaleuca (Ti Tree) family. The harvesting and management of the plant have created a renewable resource which creates jobs in Australia.



Brush wood being a native, blends well into most landscapes and fencing situations including poolside fences to provide an attractive and long life asset on your property.

How are brush fences constructed?

Brushwood fences are either made from hand packed panels or premade panels.

Hand packed fences have a structural frame built of 40mm galvanized steel posts which are capped to reduce rusting.

The base of the fence is specially prepared to avoid rotting. It is important to make sure that the bottom of the fence does not touch the ground. Therefore it is common to place the fence on treated pine or concrete.

Typically, the posts are set about 2.0 meters apart. Then galvanized steel tubes (20mm diameter) are attached between the posts - these rails act as spreaders.

The fence is then wired up using 7 wires between the posts. When the seven wires are pulled tight the frame becomes locked in place. Security is enabled by the wires pulling inwards and the spreaders holding the posts in place against the wire tension.

The fence is then packed tight with brushwood to a high density - typically this means there is no daylight showing through the fence. The bottom of the fence is trimmed as packing progresses.

Wire clips are then fitted between the wires to pull the brushwood in tight and to bind the brush top and bottom layers together. This prevents slippage between the two layers and secures the brushwork to the wiring.

The fence is then trimmed to post height and a brushwood capping is placed onto the top of the whole fence. This protects the fence from rotting and deterioration as well as giving it a nice tidy top that looks great.

Are premade fence panels better than hand-woven fences?

Machine packed panels are stronger, denser, more durable and less likely to sag than handmade panels. However they are not as versatile as hand packed fences because they are premade into a rectangle shape.

Machine made panels cannot be repaired like hand packed fences because of the way they are made. As a result you have to replace the whole fence panel if you want to repair it.

Machine packed panels are best suited to level sections and fence lines where they are cheaper and easier to install than hand packed brush fences.

Many people still prefer traditional hand packed fences because they are more flexible and in Sydney most sections are sloping. Premade panels leave unsightly gaps at the bottom in this situation.

How long does a brush fence last?

Most hand packed fences have a life span of 25 to 40 years.

Just like any other fence, brushwood fences do need to be maintained. There is a natural ageing process that affects all fences and this is particularly so with brushwood. Brushwood fences are made of natural materials that vary in size and thickness. The smaller parts of the brushwood fence will deteriorate more rapidly leaving only the thicker brush pieces. From time to time the fence will need lifting and refurbishment just as a wooden fence would need staining or painting.

Maintaining the roll top is the most critical part of maintaining a brush fence.

What happens to a brush fence if you don't maintain the roll top?

Luckily it is a fairly straight forward job to maintain the fence and ensure its longevity. It is a simple task of getting a qualified brush professional to come in and replace or repair the roll top of the fence when it starts to show signs of wear.

The signs you are looking for are thinning, loss of parts of the roll top, or deterioration in the health of the fence.



Depending on the weather conditions, will need to replace the roll top of your fence every 5-7 years.

It is cheaper to do this than have to re-stuff the fence or worse still replace large amounts of the paneling if you fail to maintain it. It's a bit like having to get your car serviced. It needs to be done regularly to avoid the engine seizing.

Does a brush fence rot?

Brushwood has a high salt content and as a result is a very durable material. It is unlikely to rot or discolour much over 20 years. However like any untreated wood it will rot if it is kept permanently wet.

The main reason that rot occurs in brush fence is because soil is pushed up against the fence or the fences used as a retainer. It is important to keep soil away from the fence in order for airflow round the base of the fence and for it to remain dry.

There is another problem with pushing soil up against the base or side of the brushwood fence. The soil can dislodge the fence from its base and this causes the fence to sag at the top overtime.

Another source of rot in a brushwood fence is that the fence is permanently kept wet by a sprinkler system. Strong jets of water from some sprinkler systems can also cause mechanical damage to an older brittle brush fence.

What are the key benefits of a brushwood fence?

The main positives of a brushwood fence relate to its looks and screening ability:

- Brushwood fences have a high level of eye appeal. They look natural and blend into most environments.
- These fences also provide good levels of shelter and wind resistance.
- Because they are made of packed layers of natural material, brushwood has very good noise absorption. This makes it perfect for reducing traffic and neighbour noise.
- Brushwood is also good for providing privacy and delivers a reasonable level of security.
- With a lifespan of 25-40 years these fences are very durable - perhaps not as long lasting as concrete or brick - but they will often out last live natural fences, steel or wooden fences.
- Since they also do not need regular maintenance - like painting or replacement of palings, they are relatively cost efficient to install and maintain.
- It does not attract graffiti.

There are three main downsides of brushwood fences:

- The fences are not able to provide structural support or act as retaining. It is possible however to build a brush fence on top of structural brick or wooden retaining walls to enhance the overall appearance of the wall / fence.
- Compared with most other fence types they provide poor fire resistance and care needs to be taken to install them clear of other structures on the property.
- They are not very resistant to rot if they are constantly damp.

How thick does a brush fence need to be to be effective?

One of the tricks of the trade (or scams in the industry) is to make hand packed brush fences that are too thin to be effective. You would ideally expect your brushwood fence to be at least 50 mm and up to 70 mm thick.

Premade brushwood panels are made to a thickness of around 60 mm. They are a compressed and stitched tightly at a much higher density than regular hand packed brushwood fences.

However, if you want to be sure your brushwood fence will act as privacy screening, a wind break or provide noise resistance it will need to be at least 60 mm thick.

One of the beauties of hand packed brush fencing is that it can be constructed to accommodate virtually any thickness.

Does the brush fence provide good wind resistance and shelter?

If you have an area of high wind around your property then brushwood fence panels can be very useful.

A brushwood fence has enough give in it to stop it from being blown over, yet it can effectively reduce the airflow in the high wind areas such as patios, balconies and outdoor entertaining areas, courtyards and perhaps even around swimming pools.



Are brush fences a fire hazard?

No, but they do burn more easily than steel or concrete fences and they do attract a certain amount of fire based vandalism.

While it is rare, if your fence is set on fire, the repair is relatively straightforward. Hand packed fences can be seamlessly repaired by good professional tradesmen so that you would never notice the damage had occurred. With machine packed fence panels it is relatively easy to replace the affected panels.

Most insurance policies cover fire damage in this case but you should check your own policy.

Does a brush fence add value to your property?

Brushwood fencing adds immediate appeal to a courtyard or landscaped area.

When dealing with a professional brush fencer you should be able to get an attractive design in mind to enhance the value of your property by taking away that old unsightly fence and replacing it with something of natural beauty that blends into the environment.



A well-designed and constructed brushwood fence is an investment both financially and in lifestyle.

However, it is unlikely that you would get an immediate return on investment from a fence so you need to consider how long you will be living at the address and if you have noise, wind or light issues that need to be addressed by the fencing so that it immediately enhances your lifestyle.

How does the brush fence affect the garden and the plants in the garden?

One significant advantage of brushwood fences over and above steel, wood and concrete or brick fences is that they do not attract and hold high levels of heat.

Let's say you have a well-established garden and you need to put in a new fence. If you put in a new Colourbond fence it is very likely that the heat from the fence will damage the plants in the future.

Because brushwood fence is a natural material this is unlikely to happen and in fact plants grow right up against the fence no trouble at all because the brush fence does not attract and hold heat in the

same way that a steel fence would. Nor does hold heat like a brick fence does so your plants will not dry up.

Does a brush fence contractor need to be trained?

One way to make sure that your potential brush fence contractor is a sound tradesperson and is well trained is to ask to see their most recent job. This is beneficial because you can talk to the previous client to see if they were satisfied with the service provided.

Another option is to review photos of recent work. However, this is not as reliable because trades people can select only the best to show you.

Is the tradesperson capable of giving you all the answers you need in relation to your fencing needs? A good reliable tradesperson who takes pride in their work will be happy to supply you with any information that you may require.

In order to be able to erect a hand packed brush fence, your tradesperson will need to have at least six months training under the supervision of an expert/professional brush fence contractor. It is common for contractors in other fencing disciplines such as steel or wooden fencing to attempt to build brush fences. Because of the specialist nature of the brushwood fence they do not complete the task professionally.

How can you identify a poorly constructed brush fence?

While it might take an expert to recognise if a brush fence is poorly constructed, you may recognise some critical problem areas relatively easily.

The fence is likely to be poorly constructed if you see these:

- The sides of the fence are inconsistent in thickness or untidy.
- You see brush protruding out of the wires of the fence -- either above or below the top of the fence or outside the sides.
- You find that the clips that hold the fence together are spaced more than 40 cm apart.
- The roll top that runs along the top of the fence shows variation in its thickness and / or is not properly rounded.
- Does the fence sit directly on the soil? If so it will be much more likely to rot and prematurely age.



## About Us

My goal with this report is to help readers to find the best contractor for their job and avoid fencing disasters. I aim to help you with:

- You search for a contractor for your new brush fence or for a repair to your existing fence.
- Getting the best quote for your fencing job.
- Setting up the contract properly so there are no nasty surprises or variations.
- Get the best finished fencing job.

I also aim to bring you together with professional fencing contractor who is able to complete your job.

If you have any questions or comments about this report or you would like me to answer questions, please contact me via the website [contact page](#).