

## How to Make Your Fence More Safe

Fencing is one of the most crucial things that keep our horses safe daily. With all of the options out there, there is sure to be an easy solution to make your fence a little more safe today.

The truth is, the safest fence is one that your horse won't touch.

Making it visible is the first thing you can do. Most of us use that survey tape from the hardware store, but it slides across the smooth wire in the wind. Solution? We've found that a bright-colored duct tape folded over the wire works well and lasts a long time! There are other options out there, like flags and reflectors, as well. For all these, we recommend 1-2 markers between every upright pole or post. Keep in mind; you want something bright so your herd can see it in all seasons and most hours of the day. Wooden cedar stays are an attractive, long-term option for smooth wire fences to keep your horses out of trouble as well.

Another thing that helps with both visibility and overall safety are t-post toppers. Most of us have seen the horrifying pictures of horses that have been impaled playing across the fence. They are relatively inexpensive and come in a variety of colors and styles. I prefer white ones, so your horses can see them and they look nice!

Another option to make your fences more visible and keep your herd in is electricity. There are so many options of electrical fence wires and tapes; you are sure to find something that works well for you. They also make t-post toppers that will hold an electric tape or wire as well. The white or yellow tapes are also easy to install alongside existing fencing. An electric fence will help keep your horses from visiting over the fence and gives peace of mind that your horses are secure.

Cattle or hog panels (and electric fence and t-post toppers) are what I ended up using to keep my horses in and my neighbor's horses (stud colts and longhorn cattle) out! The common fence between our neighbor's property and ours was a mix of old woven wire and barbed wire. The owner was unwilling to split the cost of a new fence with me, so we improvised. We simply attached 5-foot tall hog panels to the existing fence and t-posts with wire, and then covered all the t-posts with toppers that held electric fence. In an afternoon, we covered 500' of dangerous fencing. Was it cheap? Not really, but way more affordable than a vet bill or unwanted breeding!

We hope you can use one of these tips to help you rest a little easier, knowing you've done your part to make your fencing safer.