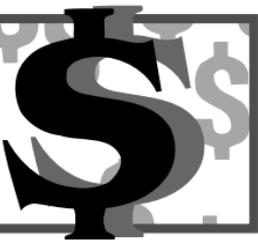


# MANAGING YOUR MONEY



## Facts on Fences: Price vs. Value

(NAPSA)—When considering adding a fence, homeowners should consider value as well as price, according to American Fence Association President Gary Brown, a Certified Fence Professional.

“While price is an important factor when choosing a fence contractor, the value you get for your dollar is equally important. You may pay less for a fence of inferior quality material installed by less experienced installers, but in the long run, you may end up paying more if you have to replace the fence sooner,” Brown said.

For example, two quotes for a chain-link fence may not be comparable. “Chain-link fence comes in different weights and gauges. While substandard chain-link is less expensive, it will not perform as well, and may warp or bend if a man climbs the fence, or if a car lightly backs into it,” Brown explained.

Other materials, like wood, also come in varying grades, and ornamental iron offers different types of coating. “It’s important to choose the right coating for your ornamental iron, based on weather, humidity, and other factors. An appropriate coating can extend the life of your fence significantly,” Brown said.

In addition, the experience of the fence company and its



installers is crucially important to sound installation.

“Anyone can dig a hole. It takes experience and education to calculate the impact of wind, soil conditions, grade, and other factors on installation. Knowledge of proper installation techniques and specifications for hole depth and concrete is also critical, to ensure a long lasting fence,” Brown said.

Another important factor is whether the contractor has certificates of insurance. “Homeowners should insist on a contractor with insurance so they won’t be held liable if accidents occur,” Brown said.

To locate a professional and knowledgeable fence contractor, contact the American Fence Association at (800) 822-4342 or visit [www.AmericanFenceAssociation.com](http://www.AmericanFenceAssociation.com).