

HINTS FOR HOMEOWNERS

Fences Create A Secluded Oasis

(NAPSA)—Adding a privacy fence to a backyard can create a secluded outdoor room for entertaining or relaxing, and adds security to a home as well. Privacy fences are also a popular way to enclose a swimming pool and can provide a barrier against noise and unattractive adjoining properties.

Traditional board fences are offered in both wood and vinyl, and come in a variety of styles and colors. Slatted chain-link fences also offer homeowners privacy. Fences can completely shield a property from its neighbors or have a slightly open design to allow air to flow through to keep backyards cool and better withstand high winds.

Some popular styles of board fences include the semi-open shadowbox, or good neighbor style, where boards are affixed to both sides of the fence, creating a pleasant, uniform look that hides the fence posts and allows air to circulate through the yard. Fences can also be constructed of boards of varying widths to create a semi-open look.

Privacy fences can be constructed with arched or concave curves, and post caps, finials or latticework are often added to provide architectural detail. Boards can also be personalized with cut-out designs or by shaped tops. Baseboards and crown molding details can also be added to customize a privacy fence.



FENCE ME IN—Latticework and post caps customize the look of a privacy fence.

Wood privacy fencing can be painted or stained to match the color scheme of the house, or left unfinished for a more natural look, while vinyl usually comes in white, beige or light gray.

Chain-link fences can also provide privacy if slats are installed. Slats can be inserted vertically or diagonally, according to the preference of the homeowner, and are available in aluminum, polyethylene or wood. Slats that look like a hedge are also available.

Homeowners can choose from a wide variety of color choices to coordinate the fence to their home, and can use alternating colors to form attractive patterns. Slats are available in several widths, which allow for both semi-private and private styles.

For a reputable fence contractor, visit the American Fence Association Web site at www.americanfenceassociation.com or call (800) 822-4342.