

PROTECTING YOUR HOME

Good Gates Make Property Safer

(NAPSA)—Good fencing with secure gates and latches can provide homeowners with added protection and security for their homes and property. To ensure your fence, gates, and access controls meet today's standards, consider consulting a fence contractor that is a member of the American Fence Association (AFA).

Pedestrian gates provide convenient access to fenced areas of yards for homeowners, but they can also provide access to unauthorized visitors. New gate hardware options ensure yards remain safe and secure.

"If you don't want people to have unsupervised access to your pool or property, a fence with a self-closing, self-latching gate is a good choice," commented Joe Dagata, an AFA member in Parma, Ohio.

Today's gates are better than ever and offer a growing line of options to increase security. "The gate can't prevent access if it doesn't close or latch properly. Now, self-closing hardware is available that works like a storm door, with a pneumatic device. These gates close automatically, and prevent people from leaving the gate open by accident," Dagata said.

Self-latching gate hardware is also available. "When the gate is shut, either a gravity, mechanical, or a magnetic device can be used to latch the gate and keep it closed. The device is installed high on the gate to prevent children from getting into the enclosed area, but can be easily opened by adults," Dagata explained.



A traditional keyed lock adds security to this gate.

For homeowners who want an added layer of security, traditional locks are available that are opened with a key or combination. "More sophisticated locking systems can be installed that are accessed by entering a code on a keypad, or even using a card reader to open the locked gate," Dagata said.

As gates have the only moveable parts on a fence system, they are exposed to the most wear and tear. Quality installation is crucial to ensure the gate's safety features work properly and last a long time.

AFA contractors have access to a wide variety of educational and networking opportunities and are highly knowledgeable about the latest gate hardware, access control devices, building standards, and up-to-date technology to assure your fence provides the safety and security you need.

For more information about gates, or to find a fence contractor, visit www.AmericanFenceAssociation.com or call (800) 822-4342.