

# Care Guide

## Basan Fences and Landscaping





Dear Reader,

BASAN FENCING and LANDSCAPING is the premier installation and design company for all of your fencing and landscaping needs serving the Raleigh - Durham area. We provide services, products, and consultation to our customers as well as the education needed to properly maintain and preserve your investment in natural stone. We are bonded and insured.

Our service and expertise are in installing, repairing, restoring, and maintaining custom fencing and all of your landscape and hardscaping needs.

We only use natural, true, and proven methods that are designed to produce your dream oasis.

BASAN FENCING and LANDSCAPING seek to provide our clients with a seamless approach to resolving whatever fencing and landscaping projects they may have.

We hope that you will consider us for all Fencing and Landscaping needs. We're confident you won't be disappointed because as far as we are concerned, customer satisfaction is written in stone.



We have said it time and time again: fencing is vital for your home and yard's safety, looks, and functionality. But what we haven't talked about lately is how to care for your fence after it is installed and the best ways to do so. Routine fence care is extremely important to avoid the inconvenience of fence fixing, to increase the life of your fence, and to help keep fence maintenance costs lower in the long run. As you know, North Carolina faces many harsh climates, wildlife, and other factors that can take a toll on your fence. At **Basan Fences and Landscaping**, we want to maximize the value of your fence and help with annual checkups and typical fence maintenance to avoid factors like wood rot, damage, rust, and more. Our team has come together to create a guide for fence maintenance based on the type of fence materials you are using. These tips and tricks can help your fence last longer and stay looking brand new.

## Guide to Fence Maintenance for Every Material

Each fencing material is built for certain climates, serves different duties, and has some type of maintenance required. For more populated cities—like Raleigh, Durham, Chapel Hill, Cary —our professionals recommend fencing materials that are easier to clean and have less maintenance, like ornamental iron and chain link. Wood fence material is perfect for more rural and smaller towns around the Triangle area (such as Smithfield, Clayton, Angier, and Lillington) because it is durable but may require more color maintenance. Vinyl fence materials are great for areas that are both rural or populated since they are durable, easy to keep clean, and simple to install. Below, we'll lay out the details of each fencing material, the maintenance involved, and our fencing tips for every fence type.

## Garden, Farm & Ranch Fence

There are many different fence materials that fall under the category of garden, farm, and ranch fencing: barb wire, horse fence, high tensile smooth wire, and more. Each material is meant to withstand harsh weather conditions, wildlife, and livestock. Below we have provided a few general maintenance tips for this category of fencing.

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## Maintenance Tips

**Annual Inspections:** You will hear us say this multiple times throughout our blog—annual inspections are the best thing a homeowner can do to maintain their fence. Walk around the fence line. Take note of any loose or broken wires, bent or broken posts, and stability of existing braces, and make sure all gates are operable. It's impossible to have eyes constantly on your fence but checking it annually will help gauge any work that may need to be done.

**Stay Ahead of Repairs:** When finding something in need of repair—big or small— we recommend fixing it right away. Repairs may include a fallen wire, cracked board, or wood rot. Fixing the problem immediately after finding it can prevent the damage from spiraling out of control.

# Wood

You can never go wrong with a wood fence. Wood fencing is cost-efficient, interchangeable in color, versatile in shape, and environmentally friendly. Although wood fencing may require re-staining to maintain its color and may undergo rot (this is rare but possible), it is durable in a North Carolina climate. Here are a few simple tips to help your wood fence look fresh and stay sturdy over the years.

## Maintenance Tips

**Point Sprinklers Away from Fencing** – Water can be very damaging to wood and cause rotting and fading. Keeping sprinklers pointed away and any other water sources off your fence is a good way to lengthen the lifespan of your wood fence.

**Clean Your Fence Every 2-3 Years** – It is easy for dirt and debris to build up on a wooden fence, especially in rural North Carolina towns. Cleaning your fence with a wire brush, power washer, or oxygenated bleach will properly remove buildup and keep your fence looking new.

**Don't Wait to Fix a Problem** – It is easy to put off minor issues, but this can cause a domino effect of problems in the future. By staying up on minor issues and fixing problems when they arise, you can boost your fence's longevity and save time and money down the road.



# Vinyl

We love the look of a simple vinyl fence in any setting—the upkeep is easy and simple! Vinyl fences come in many different styles and colors and are known for their flexibility, strength, and low maintenance. Bonus, vinyl is a great material to outlast rain and snow in the winter/spring months of North Carolina.

## Maintenance Tips

**Routinely Spray Your Vinyl Fence Off** – As easy as this trick is, it is vastly overlooked. A quick spray-down will keep your vinyl fence clean and prevent damage-causing buildup.

**Clean with MB9** – This tip is one of our favorites. Using MB9 spray works like a charm to keep vinyl clean. It really doesn't take much to maintain the look of this fence. Even soapy water can be enough to clean vinyl fences. Do not use things like Soft Scrub or Mr. Clean Magic Eraser.

**Fix the problem right away** – Vinyl fence can be quirky, and issues are hard to find with annual inspections. In most instances when a problem occurs, such as a picket coming undone, it is easiest for a homeowner to have it repaired right away. Extreme weather can be a pressing issue for vinyl fences so keeping up on repairs in the winter months is very important.



## Ornamental Iron

Ornamental iron fencing is known for its durability, long-lasting material, and high security. But like any other type of fence, ornamental iron also needs maintenance—although, the maintenance is on the lower end of the spectrum compared to other fencing products.

### Maintenance Tips

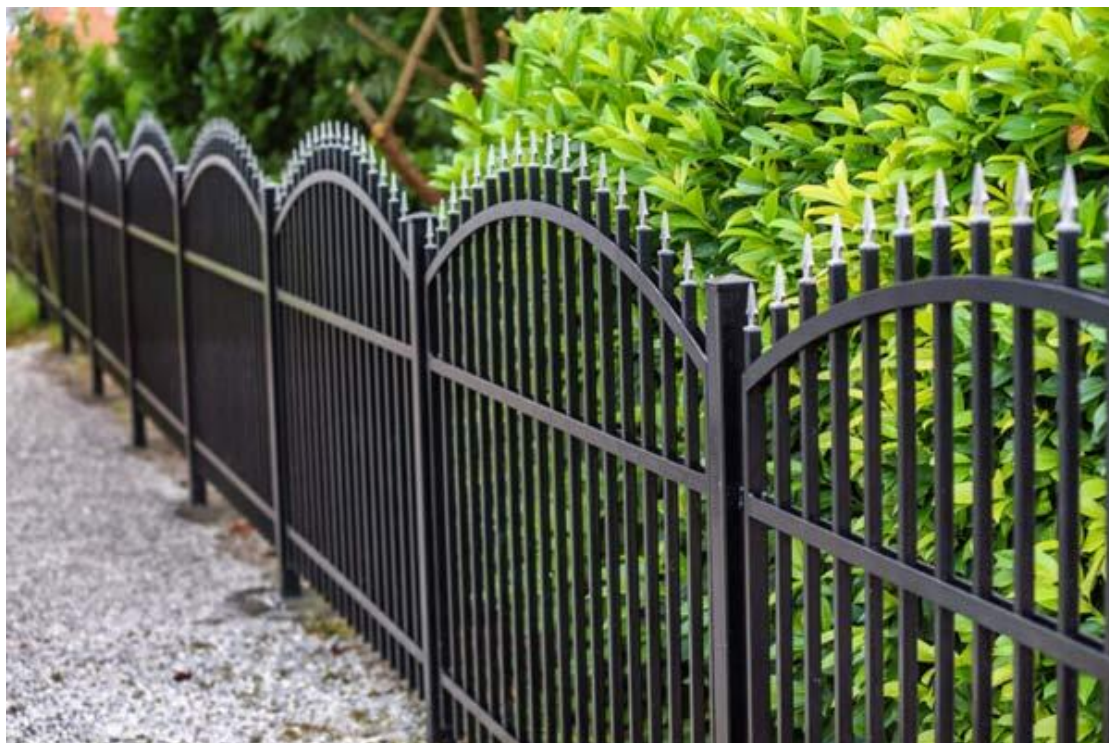
**Keep Up with Repairs** – We may have mentioned this tip many times already, but it's true! Keeping up on smaller repairs can prolong the life of your fence. A trick we love is to use black acrylic-based paint from the manufacturer for any scratches that may come from installation or normal wear and tear. It's safe to use on the coating and makes the fence look brand new!

## Chain Link

Chain link fencing is very similar to ornamental iron fencing—long-lasting and low maintenance. A chain link fence is an inexpensive fence option known for high visibility, low maintenance, quick installation, high durability, and high security.

### Maintenance Tips

**Clean Your Fence Regularly** – We suggest weekly fence cleaning (mostly in the summer). Simply spraying your fence with a hose can keep your fence looking brand new.



**Avoid Growth of Plants and Trees** – Vines, flowers, and sucker trees can displace your fence and cause damage by lifting and displacing links. Removing these plants and trees immediately after finding them will help prevent growth and ensure the safety of your fence.

## Let Our Basan Fences and Landscaping Professionals Lend a Hand

At Basan Fences and Landscaping, we value fence maintenance because we know it can increase the longevity of your fence. Fencing is an investment, so we want to increase the value you get out of your fencing through regular maintenance and repairs. Our team of skilled professionals is happy to give advice on repairs to the fence of any material. We want your journey of being a homeowner to be easy and don't want your fence to be a stumbling block or burden. If you're looking for help keeping up with your fence and fencing projects, contact us with any questions or to discuss any repairs your fence may need!

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## SEALING AND PROTECTING

All stones are porous, some more than others. For most stone—especially very porous stones like honed-finished limestone or certain granites—the application of a quality impregnating sealer is highly recommended.

The application of an impregnating sealer to highly polished marble and travertine, or polished high-density granites, may not be necessary—but when in doubt, consider this: it doesn't hurt to have it sealed. If it turns out that sealing the stone does, in fact, prevent some staining, you've saved yourself the cost of a stain removal service.

## HOW MANY APPLICATIONS OF SEALER ARE NEEDED?

For some stones that are more porous than others, one application of impregnator/sealer may not be enough. But how will you know?

On granites that need sealing, at least two applications are recommended. Very porous granites, sandstone, quartzite, etc., may require three or more applications. When sealer can no longer be absorbed by the stone, the stone is adequately sealed.

## HOW LONG WILL IT LAST?

There is no absolute rule of thumb when it comes to the durability of any sealer.

Generally speaking, most quality impregnating sealers interiors will last 2-5 years or more. The environment plays a big role. Stones exposed to intense heat or direct sunlight will probably need to be re-sealed more often.

## WHEN IS IT TIME TO RESEAL?

To find out if your stone is perfectly sealed, pour some water on it and wait for approximately half an hour, then wipe it dry. If the surface of the stone did not darken, it means that the stone is still perfectly sealed. Be sure to test various areas, especially those areas that get more use and abuse.

original finish produced by the factory. They will not offer protection to the surface of the stone, either. They will only go inside the stone by being absorbed by it (assuming that the stone is porous enough to allow this to happen) and will clog its pores, thus reducing its natural absorbency rate. This will help prevent possible accidental spills of staining agents from being absorbed by the stone. On the other hand, granite is more porous than marble and may stain if not protected with a good-quality, impregnator-type stone sealer. Stay away from topical sealer, waxes, and coatings. Some “granites” are so porous that no sealer will do a satisfactory job sealing them 100% for an extended amount of time.

Sealers for stones, which are below-surface, penetrating-type sealers—often referred to as impregnators—are designed to do one thing and one thing only: clog the pores of the stone to inhibit staining agents from being absorbed by it. In some instances, “weird” problems that may appear to be etching on “granite” countertops that turn out to be created by sealer residue that has left a haze on the stone or reacted with substances that had spilled on it. In these cases, once the sealer is professionally removed, everything is fine.

Note: Sometimes, marks of corrosion (etch marks) that an acidic substance leaves behind may look like water stains or rings, but they are neither stains nor were they generated by water. The deriving (surface) damage has no relation whatsoever with the porosity of the stone (which determines its absorbency) but is exclusively related to its chemical makeup. Special topical treatments are becoming

## WHAT DOES A SEALER DO?

Sealer is more like a scotch guard. It is designed to help buy time before the surface begins to take on stains. Some sealer are designed to make a darker looking surface while others are design to keep the natural look.