



WildSafeBC Electric Fencing Checklist



BRITISH COLUMBIA
CONSERVATION
FOUNDATION

Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ Phone Number: _____

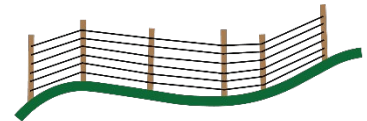
Considerations When Getting Started

- What attractants are you trying to prevent access to?
- What animals are you trying to keep away from the attractants?
- Have you had animals successfully access the attractants before?
- Do you have power nearby?
- Is the ground prepped and ready for fencing?
- What is the topography like? Hilly, flat, obstacles etc.
- How big of an area do you need to fence?
- Have you checked local regulations such as bylaws?

Plan Your Fence

Mapping out your fence will help you build a complete material list and save you time. Sketch the layout of your fence perimeter with lengths and make note of the following:

- Location of buildings near the fence and make note of house service or other utilities
- Trees, boulders, other objects
- Are you building onto existing fencing either electric and/or physical?
- Low or wet spots, creeks
- Desired entrances that require gates
- Energizer location (indoor or outdoor) and power source
- Ground installation location
- Property lines
- Hazards such as overhead power lines
- Determine number of wires (minimum 5; 6-7 preferred)
- Location of posts (estimate one post for each corner and post spacing of 10-15 m). More posts will be required if using temporary t-posts, fibreglass posts, or if the ground is soft or undulating. The bottom hot wire must run parallel to the ground.



Prepare Your Material List

- Energizer type (120v, battery, solar/battery combination) – ensure it is CSA or ULC approved
- Post type (wood, steel, fibreglass, other) and number.
- Wire type and quantity (measure perimeter x # wires x 10% margin)
- Ground rods or plates with proper connectors
- Insulator type (s) and number
- 20,000v rated underground wire for lead out wire or for connection sections of fence
- Wire connectors
- Electrical fence signs
- Fence tester
- Safety equipment and installation tools

Installation Preparation

- Call “BC 1 Call” 1-800-474-6886 or www.bc1c.ca before starting construction on your electric fence. This service will tell you what underground services that you must avoid when placing grounding rods or fence posts into the ground.
- Check with local power authority if installing the fence under or near high voltage transmission lines or right-of-ways
- Prepare the site by trimming down all of the vegetation along the fence path. Ensure no vegetation or objects can fall or lean on the fence.

Install the Fence

- Ensure the wires are running parallel to the ground
- Ensure the first hot wire is within 15-20 cm of the ground
- Ensure the top hot wire is 112 – 120 cm above the ground (based on 5-7 wires)
- Ensure the wires are taut as they must part the fur of a bear and make contact with the skin.
- You can never have too much grounding equipment.
- Ensure all connections are solid; between the energizer and the ground and the energizer to the hot wires.
- In a ground return alternating hot/cold grounded wire fence, use insulated wire to connect hot wires to each other and grounded cold wires to each other to ensure hot and cold wires are kept apart without any chance of touching.

Safety Considerations

- Read and follow all manufacturer’s instructions
- Do not install the fence within 75 m of high voltage transmission lines
- Do not install ground equipment within 15 m of house utilities.
- Wear closed toe shoes, safety glasses, and gloves when installing fences. Hearing protection may also be required.
- Install electric fence warning signs on all sides of the fence so that they are visible from any angle of approach.
- Make the fencing visible to other wildlife such as deer, moose and elk, especially if on a wildlife travel corridor.
- When fencing a larger area, consider leaving potential wildlife travel corridors open to wildlife movements.

Daily Maintenance

- Test the voltage on the hot wires at the point farthest from the energizer. You should measure a minimum of 6,000 volts with 7,000 recommended.
- Walk the fence line regularly to ensure nothing is touching the hot wires and causing it to short out. Watch for wire breaks and potential shorts around joints
- Ensure wires are taut and check for any signs of digging.

Long Term Maintenance

- Check wire tension and retighten if necessary; maintain batteries and do not let them freeze (where applicable); inspect and replace insulators as needed
- If using polywire temporarily, this should be taken down at the end of the season and stored in a dry, dark location as UV radiation degrades it over time.