







# fence, trellis, and arbor choices

MATERIAL	DESCRIPTION/TIPS	BENEFITS	DRAWBACKS
<b>Wood</b> 	<p>See the <i>Decking</i> table on page 10 for description and tips on wood.</p>	<p>See <i>Decking</i></p>	<p>See <i>Decking</i></p>
<b>Recycled Plastic Lumber</b> 	<p>See the <i>Decking</i> table on page 10 for description and tips on recycled plastic lumber.</p> <p>Tips: Some recycled plastic lumber may not be suited to the structural needs of a fence, trellis or arbor. Be sure to choose materials that meet the structural and safety requirements of your project.</p>	<p>See <i>Decking</i></p>	<p>may not be structurally sufficient for some applications</p>
<b>Salvaged Metal</b> 	<p>In general, mining and processing metals damages the environment. However, because the steel and aluminum recycling markets are so strong, most of these metals contain some recycled content. Salvaged metals prove environmental favorites because they require no mining, processing, or even the energy used in recycling.</p> <p>Tips: Sheet metal, chain link fencing, metal pipes and rods, and even salvaged railings can be used for fence and trellis applications. Look for salvaged metals at industrial surplus stores and online exchanges, see <i>Resources</i> on page 20.</p>	<p>reused, reusable and recyclable</p>	<p>sharp edges can cut or puncture</p> <p>prone to rust or corrosion</p> <p>galvanized materials can leach zinc, which is toxic to aquatic life</p>
<b>Fiber Cement</b> 	<p>Available in panels and planks, fiber cement is a combination of cement, sand, wood fiber, and sometimes, clay. Like all products containing cement, fiber cement requires large amounts of energy to produce, which contributes to carbon dioxide emissions and global warming. Additionally, the wood fiber used in fiber cement is usually imported. Conventionally used for home siding, fiber cement is growing increasingly popular for fences.</p> <p>Tips: Make sure your fence construction will work with this material. Brittle and easily damaged, fiber cement is best used for areas with low likelihood of a run-in with a wheelbarrow, car bumper, or baseball.</p>	<p>rot-proof</p> <p>low maintenance</p> <p>holds paint longer than wood</p>	<p>easily broken or damaged</p> <p>currently not recyclable in small quantities</p> <p>suitable only for fences</p>