

Preparing Fencing for Hurricane Season in Louisiana: Tips for Minimizing Damage

PONCHATOULA, LA, UNITED STATES, March 26, 2025 /EINPresswire.com/ -- With hurricane season approaching, property owners across Louisiana face the task of preparing for potential wind and water damage. While homes and roofs typically receive the most attention, fencing is often an overlooked structure that can become a major liability during a storm. Improperly secured fences can collapse, break apart, or turn into flying debris, posing risks to property, people, and neighboring structures.



[Anthony Ostrowski](#), owner of [Tony's Fencing & Iron Works](#) in Ponchatoula, Louisiana, highlights key strategies for safeguarding fencing systems ahead of hurricane season. With over 30 years of experience operating a family-run fencing business, Ostrowski has seen firsthand the kinds of damage Louisiana storms can inflict—and what steps help prevent it.

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Anthony Ostrowski

“Fencing is one of the most vulnerable elements on a property during high-wind events,” said Ostrowski. “The right preparation can significantly reduce repair costs after a storm and help limit the danger of fencing materials becoming airborne.”

Assessing Fence Stability Before the Storm

Before hurricane season begins, fence inspections can help identify points of weakness. Posts should be checked to ensure they are firmly rooted, especially at corners and gate areas. Loose or leaning posts are more susceptible to collapse under strong wind pressure. Fence panels, gates, and hardware should be evaluated for signs of wear, corrosion, or damage that might compromise structural integrity.

Rotten wood, rusted fasteners, and loose boards often indicate that a fence is nearing the end of its service life or needs reinforcement. In areas prone to flooding, posts installed in poorly draining soil should be examined for signs of shifting or undermining.

Wind Flow and Fence Design

Different fencing materials behave differently in high winds. Solid panel fences, for example, offer more resistance to airflow and are more likely to be pushed over during a storm. In contrast, open-style fences—such as those with pickets or ornamental iron—allow for better wind passage and typically fare better during hurricanes.



For property owners considering new installations, designs that balance privacy with airflow can offer greater resilience in Louisiana's storm-prone climate. Existing fences with solid panels can be reinforced by adding additional fasteners or cross-bracing between posts.

Securing Fence Gates and Hardware

Gates are common failure points during storms. Without secure latching systems or anchor points, they can swing open in high winds or become detached entirely. Gate hinges and latches should be tightened and reinforced with heavy-duty hardware when necessary. In some cases, gates may need to be temporarily removed and stored indoors ahead of a major storm.

It is also advisable to trim back any overhanging branches or nearby vegetation that could fall onto the fence line or increase wind load during severe weather.

Material-Specific Recommendations

Wood fencing is highly vulnerable to rot and water damage. Pressure-treated lumber offers better durability, but regular maintenance—such as staining or sealing—can extend lifespan and reduce moisture absorption. After a storm, wooden fences may swell or warp due to water exposure and require time to dry before any repair work is performed.

Metal fencing, including chain link and iron, typically withstands wind well but is susceptible to corrosion if not properly coated. Inspecting for rust, repainting with protective coatings, and ensuring the posts are anchored in concrete can enhance performance during storms.

Vinyl fencing, while low maintenance, may snap or come apart under intense wind pressure. Proper reinforcement and deep-set posts are crucial for maintaining stability.

Post-Storm Inspection and Damage Control

After a storm, fencing should be inspected promptly for signs of damage or instability. Dislodged posts, cracked boards, or bent panels should be addressed before the next weather event. Even if a fence appears intact, water-logged soil can cause posts to loosen over time, leading to a delayed failure if not properly stabilized.

Taking photographs of damage immediately after the storm can assist in insurance documentation and expedite repair processes. In cases of shared fencing between properties, open communication with neighbors can facilitate mutual repair arrangements and cost-sharing.

Community Safety and Responsibility

Flying fence debris has the potential to cause injury or damage to surrounding property. Loose boards, metal panels, or unhinged gates can become hazards if not properly secured. Proactive reinforcement is not just about property protection—it also contributes to community safety during a storm.

Municipal codes in many Louisiana parishes require fences to be constructed and maintained in a manner that withstands common weather events in the region. Staying in compliance with these codes not only reduces liability but also promotes longer-lasting installations.

Conclusion

As hurricane season draws near, taking the time to evaluate and reinforce fencing can help prevent unnecessary damage and expense. From inspecting posts and gates to choosing wind-resistant designs, preparation is a vital step in protecting fencing infrastructure.

Tony's Fencing & Iron Works remains committed to supporting Louisiana communities with long-lasting fencing solutions. With more than three decades of experience and deep local knowledge, the Ostrowski family continues to serve Ponchatoula and the surrounding areas with reliable construction, reinforcement, and repair services tailored to the demands of Louisiana's climate.

About Tony's Fencing & Iron Works

Tony's Fencing & Iron Works is a family-owned business with over 30 years of experience serving Ponchatoula, Louisiana, and surrounding regions. The company offers custom fencing design, fabrication, and installation using wood, iron, chain link, and other materials suited for residential and commercial needs.

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