

Tony's Fencing & Iron Works Shares Back-to-School Fence Safety Tips for Louisiana Families

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COVINGTON, LA, UNITED STATES, August 10, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Northshore families can use the start of the school year to check gates, fence gaps, pool barriers, pets and driveway visibility.

As Louisiana families return to school-year schedules, Tony's Fencing & Iron Works is encouraging homeowners to include a quick fence and gate inspection in their seasonal household routine.



Children enjoy a fenced backyard play area as Louisiana families return to school-year routines. Tony's Fencing & Iron Works encourages homeowners to check gates, fence gaps, play areas and backyard access.

The beginning of a new school year changes how many homes operate each day. Early mornings may include children walking toward buses, parents backing vehicles out of driveways, pets reacting to additional activity and younger children following older siblings outside. In the afternoon, bikes, friends, sports equipment and backyard play can increase traffic through gates again.

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A back-to-school fence check can be simple: test the gate, walk the fence line, look for new gaps, and make sure the yard still works for the family's daily routine.”

Tony Ostrowski, Owner, Tony's Fencing and Iron Works

These routine changes can make August a useful time to look at whether a backyard fence still works as intended.

For homeowners across Ponchatoula, Hammond, Covington, Mandeville, Madisonville, Slidell and surrounding Northshore communities, the inspection does

not need to be complicated. In many cases, a short walk around the property can reveal a gate that no longer latches, a loose board, a gap beneath the fence or a section that has started to lean.

A Seasonal Fence Check Starts With the Gate

Residential gates tend to experience more movement than the rest of a fence. Hinges carry weight, posts keep the opening aligned and the latch must meet correctly each time the gate closes.

Louisiana's weather can also affect that alignment. Rain, soft soil, humidity and normal wood movement may gradually change how a gate operates.

A gate that worked well earlier in the year may begin dragging, sagging or missing the latch after months of use and wet weather.

Homeowners can start by opening the gate fully and allowing it to close normally. The gate should move without excessive force and should meet the latch in the correct position.

If a gate has to be lifted, pushed or pulled into place each time it closes, the problem may be more than a minor inconvenience. It can also make it easier for family members to leave the gate open because closing it becomes difficult.

Basic items to inspect include the hinges, latch, gate post, bottom clearance and overall alignment.

Tony's Fencing & Iron Works also provides information about [fence gate planning in Louisiana](#) for homeowners considering a new fence or changing an existing gate layout.

Fence Gaps Can Develop Over Time

The next step is to walk the fence line and inspect the area close to the ground.

Heavy rainfall can move soil away from the bottom of a fence. Pets may dig along the fence line, while wood boards can warp, split or loosen.

As a result, spaces that were not present when the fence was installed may appear later.

Small openings can matter when a fence is used to help define a play area or contain a pet.

A visual inspection should include loose boards, missing pieces, leaning posts, openings under gates and exposed nails or screws.

Looking at the fence from a lower angle can also be helpful. Problems near the bottom may be easy for an adult to overlook while standing several feet above them.

The goal is not to treat a fence as a replacement for supervision. Instead, a well-maintained fence can serve as one part of a family's overall approach to defining and managing outdoor space.

Back-to-School Mornings Bring More Driveway Activity

Fence safety is not limited to the backyard itself.

During the school year, driveways often become busier at the same time children are walking, riding bikes or moving between the house and street.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration advises drivers to walk around their vehicles and check the surrounding area before backing. NHTSA also recommends teaching children to stay away from vehicles that are starting or moving and keeping bikes and toys out of driveways.

For homeowners, this can also be a useful reason to evaluate fence and landscape visibility near a driveway.

A tall privacy fence, hedge or gate near the front of a property may affect the driver's view of pedestrians, bicycles or approaching vehicles.

One simple check is to stand at the driveway entrance and look in both directions. Homeowners can then repeat the check from the driver's seat.

If a fence or landscaping creates a major sightline problem, changes to the area may be worth considering.

A Fence Can Help Define an After-School Play Area

Once school is dismissed, the traffic pattern around a home changes again.

Children may head outside with friends. Bikes, balls and sports equipment may be moved through backyard gates. Younger siblings may also spend more time outside while older children finish homework or activities.

A fence can help visually define a backyard play area. However, the space beside the fence deserves attention as well.

Patio furniture, storage boxes, coolers and other items can gradually end up against a fence.

Depending on the age of the child and the fence design, those items may make climbing easier.

For that reason, homeowners may want to move unnecessary objects away from areas where climbing would create a concern.

The same idea applies to play equipment. Outdoor equipment should be placed with enough room around it so children are not landing directly beside fences, hard edges or other fixed objects.

Pets May React Differently During the School Year

Dogs can also notice the change when school starts.

A normally calm dog may become more active when children run toward a bus, neighbors begin walking earlier in the morning or a gate opens several times within a short period.

Families with pets can perform a separate inspection from the animal's point of view.

Common trouble spots include spaces under gates, fresh digging, loose boards and chain link that has pulled away near the ground.

Gate habits matter as well.

A fence can only contain a pet when the gate is actually closed. Families may find it useful to make closing the gate part of the same routine as grabbing a backpack, lunchbox or shoes.

Pool Fence Safety Remains Important After School Starts

August in Southeast Louisiana does not mark the end of swimming weather.

Because temperatures often remain warm after classes resume, pool areas may continue to see regular use during afternoons and weekends.

That makes the beginning of the school year another practical time to check a pool barrier.

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission states that pool barriers provide an added layer of protection but are not childproof. Its residential pool guidance recommends that pedestrian access gates open away from the pool and be self-closing and self-latching.

Homeowners can check whether a pool gate closes completely, whether the latch works properly and whether anything is holding the gate open.

They can also look for fence damage, gaps and items placed close enough to the barrier to be

used for climbing.

Local building and pool requirements can vary, so homeowners should confirm rules with the appropriate parish, city or permitting authority before installing or changing a pool fence.

Tony's Fencing & Iron Works provides additional information on [Louisiana pool fence requirements](#) for property owners who are planning or reviewing a pool enclosure.

A 10-Minute DIY Fence Check

A basic seasonal fence inspection can often be completed without tools.

Homeowners can begin at the gate, then walk the fence line and look for obvious changes.

First, the gate can be opened and closed several times. Next, the latch and hinges can be checked for movement. Posts should be observed for leaning, while boards can be inspected for cracking, warping or missing pieces.

The bottom of the fence deserves its own check for erosion, digging or new gaps.

Exposed nails, screws or sharp hardware should also be noted.

After that, homeowners can step back and look at the relationship between the fence and the driveway. Pool barriers should be checked separately when present.

Finally, play areas can be cleared of clutter sitting directly beside the fence.

Taking photos during the inspection can help homeowners track changes over time.

A post that appears slightly out of position today may be easier to evaluate later when an earlier photo is available for comparison.

Photographs can also make it easier to explain a problem when requesting a fence repair estimate.

Louisiana Rain Can Reveal Fence Problems

Heavy Louisiana rainfall can change ground conditions around a fence.

Water may soften soil near posts or carry soil away from lower sections. Wood fencing may also respond to changing moisture levels.

Because of that, homeowners may notice a gate beginning to drag after a period of wet weather

even when it worked normally before.

Fresh erosion is another sign worth watching.

If soil is repeatedly moving beneath the same part of a fence, the issue may involve drainage rather than the fence alone.

Likewise, several leaning sections can suggest a larger structural issue instead of one loose board.

Seasonal inspections are useful because they allow property owners to notice gradual changes before the problem becomes more difficult to address.

Repair and Replacement Are Different Decisions

Not every damaged fence needs to be replaced.

A limited repair may be reasonable when only one or two boards are damaged, hardware has loosened, a gate needs adjustment or one small area experienced storm damage.

The decision can change when problems appear throughout the fence.

Multiple weak posts, widespread rot, repeated repairs or large unstable sections may make replacement worth discussing.

Changing family needs can also affect the decision.

A fence that was appropriate when a household first moved into a property may no longer provide the privacy, pet containment or gate access the family wants several years later.

In those situations, homeowners may consider the current condition of the fence along with how the property is now used.

Choosing a Family-Friendly Fence Layout

No single fence material is best for every Louisiana family.

Wood privacy fencing can create a more enclosed backyard and reduce views from nearby streets or properties.

Vinyl can provide similar privacy with different maintenance needs.

Chain link maintains visibility while still defining a boundary, which may work well for some pets

and yards.

Ornamental iron and similar open-style fencing can preserve sightlines while creating a clear property boundary.

However, material is only one part of the decision.

Gate placement, yard layout, driveway access, drainage, pets and the location of pools or play areas can all affect how well a fence functions.

For example, a gate that is too narrow or far from the route a family normally uses may be inconvenient. Over time, that inconvenience can lead to the gate being left open more often.

Planning for bikes, lawn equipment, trash cans and other regular traffic before installation can help avoid that problem.

Frequently Asked Questions

How often should a homeowner inspect a fence?

A basic visual inspection several times per year can help identify changes. It is also useful to check after severe weather, prolonged rainfall or visible damage.

Why does a fence gate stop latching?

Gate alignment can change because of loose hardware, movement in the gate post, soft soil, wood swelling or other normal changes. A latch that no longer lines up may be a sign that the gate or supporting post has shifted.

Can gaps under a fence be repaired?

Many can. However, the cause should be considered first. If erosion repeatedly removes soil from beneath the fence, fixing only the opening may not solve the long-term problem.

What type of fence works well for children and pets?

Wood, vinyl, chain link and ornamental fencing can all work depending on the property. Pet size, visibility, privacy needs, gate design and surrounding hazards should all be considered.

Does a fence make a backyard childproof?

No. A fence can create a boundary and provide another layer of protection, but it cannot replace supervision.

Should pool fencing be checked after summer?

Yes. In Louisiana, pool use may continue well into the school year. Gates, latches, panels and the area around the barrier should remain in good working order.

Can a damaged fence be repaired rather than replaced?

Often, yes. Localized damage may be repairable when the rest of the structure remains sound. Widespread post failure, rot or repeated problems may make replacement more practical.

What should families check around the driveway?

Drivers should have a clear view of the surrounding area before moving a vehicle. Homeowners can check whether fencing, gates or landscaping interfere with important sightlines.

Back-to-School Season Offers a Natural Maintenance Reminder

The start of a new school year already causes families to review schedules, transportation and daily routines.

Adding a short fence inspection can help homeowners determine whether the yard still fits those routines.

A working gate, stable fence line and clear driveway area can support a better-organized outdoor space without requiring a major project.

The broader [back-to-school fence safety in Louisiana](#) resource is available near the end of Tony's Fencing & Iron Works' educational content library for homeowners who want additional details and planning information.

Tony's Fencing & Iron Works serves homeowners and businesses throughout the Northshore and surrounding Southeast Louisiana communities with wood fencing, vinyl fencing, chain link, ornamental iron work, gates, pool fencing and fence repair.

About Tony's Fencing & Iron Works

Tony's Fencing & Iron Works provides residential and commercial fencing, gates and custom iron work in Southeast Louisiana. Services include wood, vinyl, chain link, ornamental iron, pool fencing, fence repair and custom gate solutions. The company serves communities across the Northshore, including Ponchatoula, Hammond, Covington, Mandeville, Madisonville, Slidell and surrounding areas.

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