



## DESIGN DETAILS

# GATES AND RAILINGS

*How do you go about choosing a new gate? From security to sizing and materials, here's everything you need to keep in mind*

When choosing a gate, functionality is key, so first you should decide its main purpose. 'A front gate is usually just a visual deterrent,' says Paul Hensey at Green Zone Design ([greenzonedesign.co.uk](http://greenzonedesign.co.uk)). 'You don't actually want to lock people out. A side or back gate, however, needs to be sturdy and secure to prevent people entering a private garden.' If keeping children or animals safely in is a priority, opt for a solid design. 'It also helps if there are no footholds or gaps where kids could get stuck,' adds Hensey. 'Position locks high, or choose a mechanism that can only be operated by adults.' Consider the width of anything that needs to fit through it, such as prams and bins, as well as how much privacy you require. Finally, think about what the gate will be hung on: if the original gate is missing or needs replacing, the gateposts may need an upgrade too.

Next, it's time to think about materials. 'Do you want the gate to be a focal point, or do you want it to blend into its surroundings?' asks garden designer Catherine Clancy ([catherineclancy.com](http://catherineclancy.com)). 'This will help dictate the material.' If you have wooden fencing, for example, it makes sense to choose the same timber. Certified woods such as oak or balau are durable choices, as are treated softwoods such as pine, which can be painted in a bespoke shade. 'A gate painted the same colour as the front door can provide a wonderful visual link,' says garden designer Andrew Duff ([andrewduffgardendesign.com](http://andrewduffgardendesign.com)). A period property will often suit more traditional metalwork; most specialist manufacturers can copy a specific historic design. Incorporating patterns or motifs taken from the architecture of the house will help to create cohesion. Salvaged gates are also an option: 'a metalworker will be able to alter the size to fit,' says Andrew.

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## FOUR OF THE BEST PLACES TO FIND GATES

### **Best for bespoke wrought iron** **The Great Gate Company**

This family-run company can make custom gates in historic, bespoke and contemporary styles, with durable powder-coated and galvanised finishes. *Leafield Industrial Estate, Corsham SN13* ([thegreatgatecompany.co.uk](http://thegreatgatecompany.co.uk))



### **Best for laser-cut designs**

**Laser Cut Screens**  
Using specialist techniques, Laser Cut Screens creates bespoke designs in a range of materials including natural and distressed metallic finishes or Corten steel, and can be painted in any gloss or matt RAL colour. ([lasercutscreens.co.uk](http://lasercutscreens.co.uk))



### **Best for wooden gates** **The Garden Trellis Company**

Founded in 1992, this company stocks inexpensive wooden gates and offers a bespoke service from design to installation. Gates can be finished with stain or paint in a wide variety of colours. *355 Old Road, Clacton-on-Sea CO15* ([gardentrellis.co.uk](http://gardentrellis.co.uk))



### **Best for salvaged gates**

**English Salvage**  
This Herefordshire specialist stocks a wide range of reclaimed gates in cast iron, wrought iron and wood, as well as salvaged gateposts, railings and decorative finials. *North Road, Leominster HR6* ([englishsalvage.co.uk](http://englishsalvage.co.uk))

