

CANE TOAD PROOF YOUR BACKYARD

If you already have a fence surrounding your property, it is easy to make it toad proof to protect your pets and native wildlife. Smaller fences can also be used within your property to keep toads out of specific areas such as swimming pools and BBQ areas.



Cane toad proof fence

You will need the following tools;

- Jambro Fastener guns (cartridge filled)
- Jambro fasteners (c clips)
- 50 metre x 1 metre high density shade cloth rolls (depending on size of property)
- 25mm x 25mm gutter guard in 50 metre x 1 metre rolls
- Tin snips
- Sewing/Fabrication scissors
- 6mm thick black rubber strips
- Wooden clothes pegs



10 steps to creating your own fence;

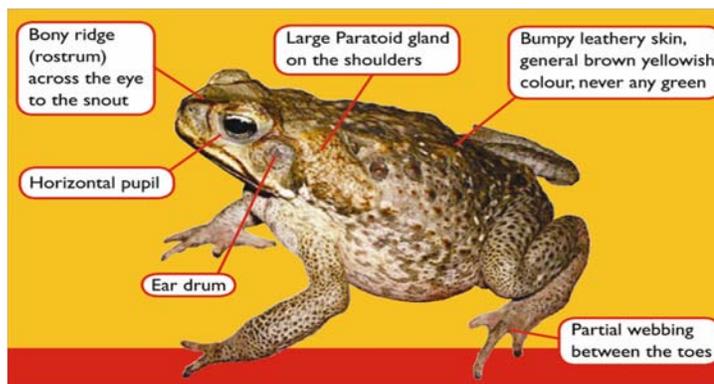
1. Clear fence line of vegetation and ensure suitable fire break on either side.
2. Roll out shade cloth rolls along the outside of the fence line.
3. Attach shade cloth using Jambro gun and c clips to pre-existing fence line closest to knee height or about 50cms. If there is another strand of wire that runs along the ground, attach shade cloth to this wire as well. Note: the shade cloth should be tied off at commencement end so that some tension can be applied as it is fastened.
4. The remaining 50cms of shade cloth needs to lie flat along the ground facing away from the fence. (So in situ it will resemble an L shape when viewed along its axis).
5. Most native wildlife can move over the shade cloth, but if you are concerned, it is recommended that 'wildlife gates' be inserted into the fence. These should be made out of gutter guard (or similar) with a 25mm x 25mm mesh size (this size blocks adult toads, but not native frogs). Cut the gutter guard in 20cm strips x 1m using tin snips.
6. Place a 1 metre long section every 25m along the fence at ground level. It is recommended that impacts on wildlife should be monitored and extra sections of wildlife gate be placed into the fence if deemed necessary. This can be attached using Jambro fasteners and c clips every 5-7 cm or alternatively using light tie wire.
7. The scissors are used to cut out the section of shade cloth 'behind' the wildlife gate thus opening the gate. Cut only the two sides and bottom on the shade cloth. Roll up the shade cloth and peg it to the top of the gate. If smaller toads are found on your property, you can roll down the shade cloth to block them from entering your property.
8. The bottom skirt is then weighed down with dirt, rocks, sticks or in some cases pegged down with small tent pegs to prevent toads gaining easy access under the fence.
9. For any access points to your property such as entry/exit gates, 6mm thick black rubber strips can be attached to the bottom of your gates. The black rubber should be flexible enough to move with the gate, but strong enough to seal any gaps in the bottom of the fence.
10. Monitor your fence for any required maintenance and upkeep.

Monitoring your fence

It is important that you monitor your fence (daily if possible) for toads and other wildlife. This will help you determine a) how many toads you have surrounding your property, b) if the fence is working to keep toads out and c) if the fence is affecting native wildlife in any way. If you aren't sure what a toad looks like, please see diagram below. Make sure you don't confuse it with any native species such as the Giant Frog (*Cyclorana australis*) pictured below the cane toad. If you find any other animal impacted by the fence you may need to insert more wildlife gates or consider other designs of toad control.



Wildlife gate



Cane toad



Giant frog

A wildlife gate inserted near ground level of the fence allows native animals to move through your property. Sand is placed on top of the shade cloth that runs along the ground to prevent toads from burrowing underneath.

Removing and disposing of toads

Toads come out at night time, so a walk around your fence (and inside the fence) an hour after dark will ensure you encounter local toads. It is recommended, but not required, to wear gloves when picking up toads. The glands behind their head are where their toxin is released from if the animal is stressed. Just by picking toads up, they will generally not release their poison, but be sure to wash your hands after touching toads to be safe. Collect toads in a heavy duty plastic bag and place them in the freezer or de-capitate them. They can then be buried. You can also drop live toads off in depot bins at the Shire, Kununurra vet or Department of Environment and Conservation.

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STOP THE TOAD
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