

Help protect our turtles

The problem

- Turtles occur in waterways where they help improve water quality.
- Some turtles make large movements across land to build nests or relocate.
- Certain fence types may trap turtles causing dehydration, entanglement, overheating, or death.



- There are a number of simple, cost effective solutions to reduce the risks of fences to freshwater turtles.
- This guide identifies common fence types that may harm turtles and provides practical recommendations on how you, as a landholder, can help save our turtles.

Interested in protecting turtles?
Check out our partner projects



Seen a turtle: dead or alive?

Upload your pics using the
TurtleSAT app to help identify
hotspots for future
conservation



Are you a landholder in the New England Area?

See how you can help save the
endangered Bell's turtle



Fencing
guide



Facebook
page

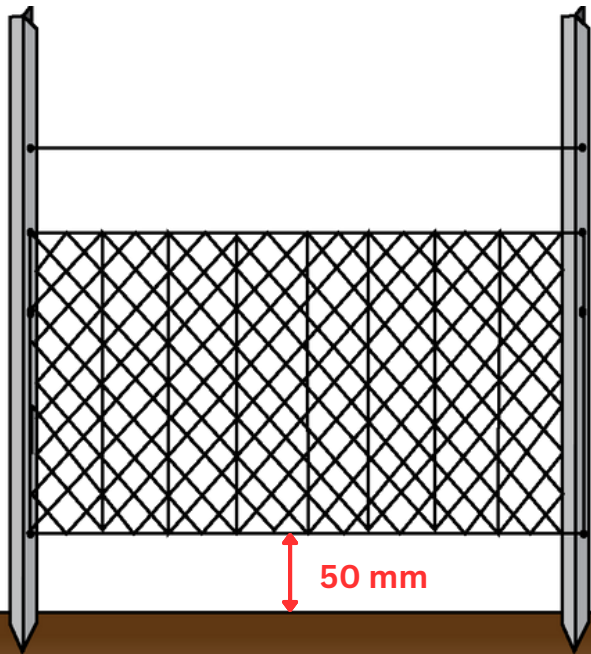
Turtle-friendly fencing

A guide for landholders



Help protect our turtles

Chicken wire fences

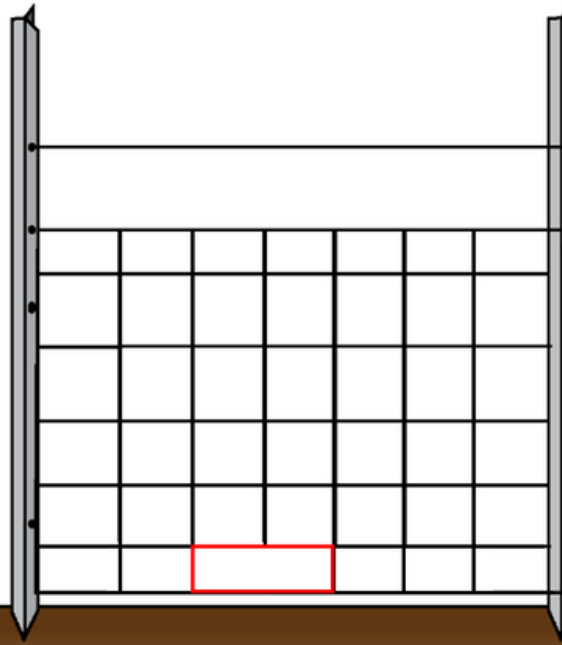


Chicken wire fences prevent the movement of turtles. Turtles often become trapped in chicken wire fences because they cannot move through the small mesh size.

What you can do

- Raise bottom wires **50mm** above ground level
- Select alternative fence types where possible

Exclusion fences

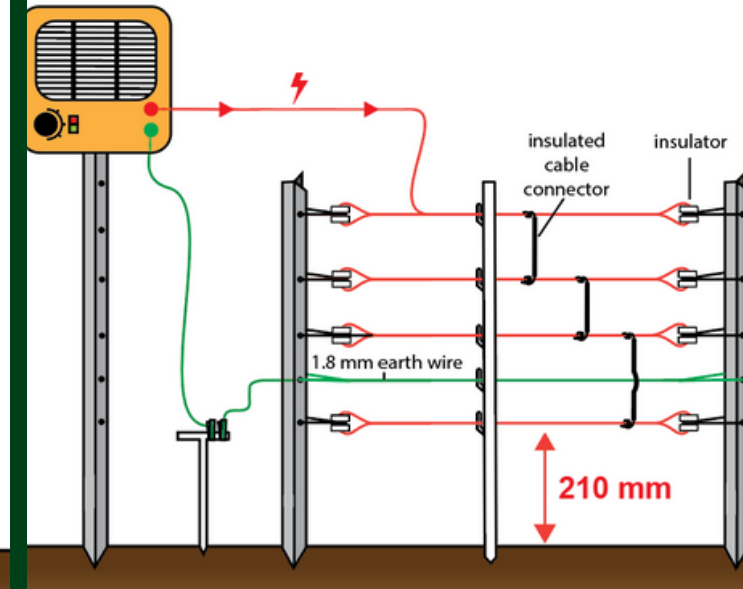


Exclusion fencing may impact movement of large turtles. Simple, cost effective alterations can reduce the risk from these fences.

What you can do

- **Clip vertical wires every 20 metres** to create turtle gates, which allow larger turtles to pass through the fence
- Raise bottom wires **50mm** above ground level when clipping is not possible
- Conduct regular maintenance to clear debris and avoid using across creeks and streams where debris accumulates

Electric fences



Electric fences do not impact turtle movements and are useful to exclude foxes from turtle nesting sites, where they otherwise eat eggs.

What you can do

- **Ensure bottom live wire** is at a height that prevents foxes going beneath the fence but allows turtles and other wildlife to cross (**210 mm** is ideal)
- Set energisers to **half or low strength** to avoid injury to wildlife
- Conduct regular maintenance to prevent shorting