

# HOME AND GARDEN

## When doing a project, choose your own lumber

*This way you can check each piece of lumber for possible defects*

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when they're approved beforehand. And your neighbour just may agree to contribute to the cost of building and maintaining the fence.

A fence constructed out of wood, still the most common type, is an obvious choice — and

for good reason.

Wood is a natural material, it's easy to build with and it can be built in a wide range of styles and with different ground conditions. A wood fence's initial cost may seem a bit steep, but its good looks will last for years — and maintenance and repairs are simple.

Vinyl fences, rising in popularity, are less expensive than their wood counterparts. Easy to assemble and maintain, vinyl fences often don't wear as well as wood ones. And the modular construction that makes them so easy to put up may mean a hefty price tag for repairs or the replacement of components. Whatever a chain-link fence may seem to lack in appearance is more than made up in sturdiness and durability. Comparable in cost as some styles of wood fences, a chain-link fence is almost indestructible and will withstand years of outdoor punishment. And what

out-of-the-ordinary repairs you might eventually need to do to a chain-link fence won't try your time, patience or pocketbook.

pieces of lumber for defects.

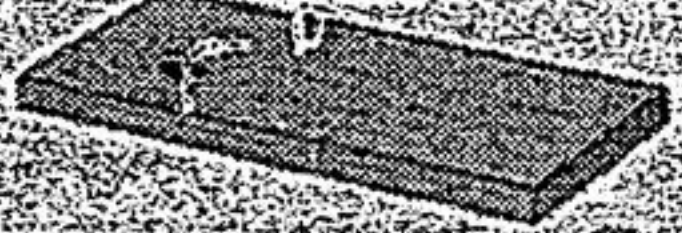
*This article was from the Home Depot's Outdoor Projects 1-2-3*

### CORRECTION NOTICE BMW AUTOHAUS

The lease rate of \$499<sup>00</sup> as appeared in the BMW Autohaus advertisements is for the BMW 328i model, and not the 328is as was shown. We apologize for any confusion this may have caused BMW Autohaus or their customers.

## Avoiding Wood Defects

**KNOT**



A dark whorl of varying size from less than half an inch (pin knot) to one and a half inches wide; weakens wood if larger than three quarter of an inch

**GUM**



An accumulation of resin; doesn't weaken wood, but makes surface tacky and bleeds through finish

**CHECK**



Small cracks across growth rings; doesn't weaken wood, but may mar its appearance

**BOW**



End-to-end curve along board face; suitable for horizontal load-bearing applications (joists) if positioned convex side up

**CUP**



Edge-to-edge curve across board face; suitable for nonload-bearing applications (decking, facing) if positioned convex side up or out

**CROOK**



End-to-end curve along board edge; suitable for horizontal load-bearing applications (joists) if positioned convex side up

**TWIST**



Uneven or irregular warping; weakens wood, but may be used in nonload-bearing applications (blocking)

### Shopping for Wood

• Write up a materials list before you head off to your lumberyard or home improvement centre. Write a description of each piece required and the quantity as well as specifics on the type, thickness, width and length of wood.

• Choose the lumber yourself rather than ordering by phone. Wood can vary from board to board in both its strength and appearance. Check each



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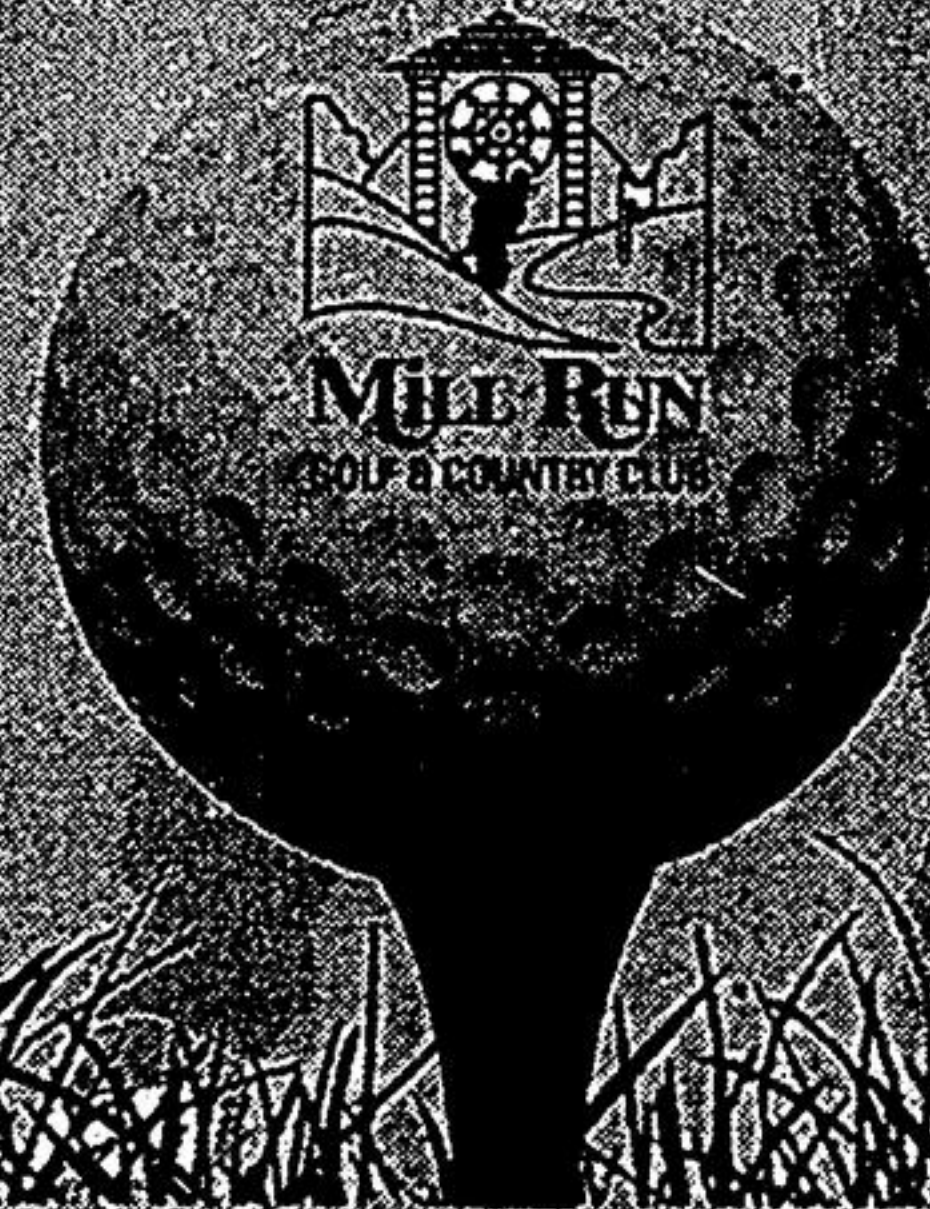
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