

**DEFENDERS** of Wildlife is committed to helping people successfully coexist with wildlife by using tools that reduce or eliminate negative interactions—like bears getting into garbage, livestock and other attractants on your property. Bear-resistant electric fencing is one of these tools.

## Why install an electric fence?

*An electric fence is a humane and effective bear deterrent.*

Unlike a barbed wire fence, an electric fence doesn't cause lasting pain and injury. The fence delivers just enough of a shock to deter bears. After a few visits they learn to keep away, leaving backyard attractants untouched.

*Installing an electric fence is relatively simple and economical.*

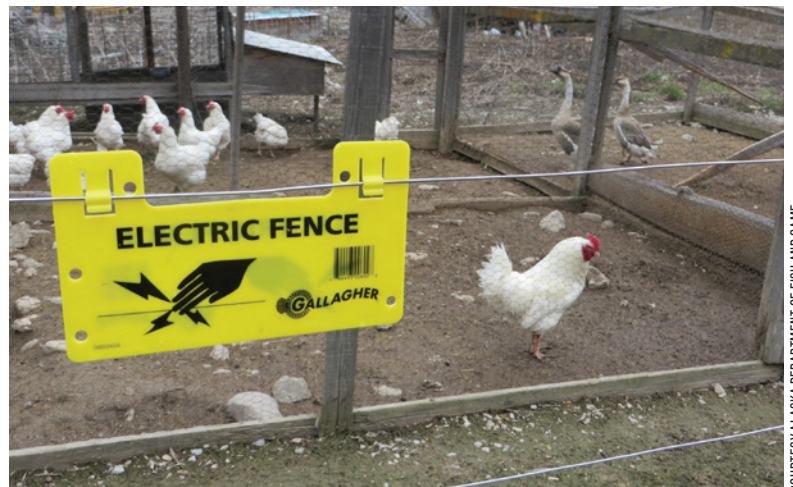
All you need are a wire cutter, post driver, pliers and some readily available materials.

- **Posts (metal or wood):** Support structure spaced so wires don't sag—about seven to 10 feet apart.
- **Wire:** Conducts intermittent current; spaced six to 10 inches apart with the lowest wire approximately eight to 12 inches above the ground and the top wire at least 36 to 42 inches so bears can't get under or over them.
- **Insulators:** Plastic pieces used to hold the hot wires away from the posts to keep them from grounding out.
- **Power source:** Provides the electricity that charges and energizes the wires. It can be an AC/DC plug-in, batteries or solar battery charger. The power source controls the fence and regulates the flow of electricity—a minimum of 6,000 volts output at every point along the wire and 0.7 joules of energy at the energizer, delivering a minimum of 40 shocks per minute.
- **Grounding rod:** Attracts the electrical current after it passes through the bear and returns it to the energizer through a wire between the energizer



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**A Defenders electric fencing expert puts the finishing touches on a project (fence parts numbered in photo: 1) gate; 2) post; 3) wire; 4) insulator). The other easy-to find components you need to install a bear-resistant fence include a power source, which can be an outlet in a nearby building or a solar charger, and a warning sign (below) to keep people safe.**



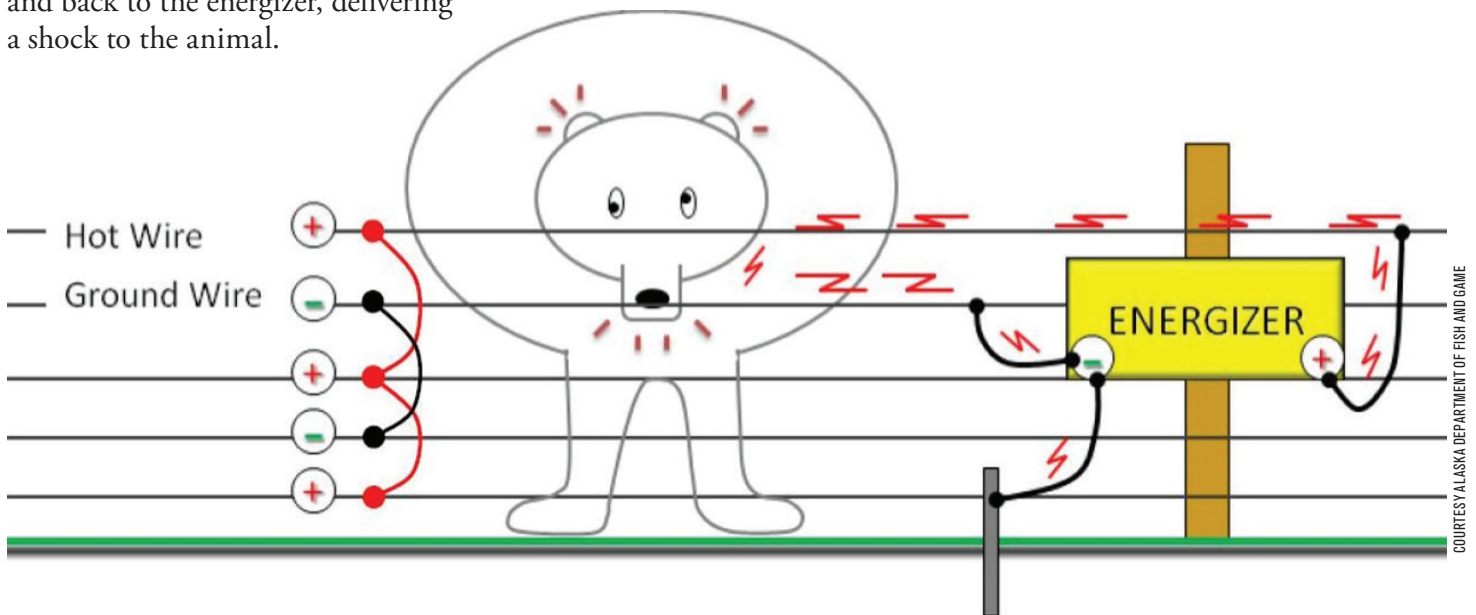
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and the grounding rod—typically a 48-inch by 1/2- or 3/4-inch metal rod driven into the ground.

- **Gate:** Breaks the fence's electric current, usually an insulated handle that unhooks the wire from the fence.
- **Safety warning:** Signs placed on fence to keep people safe.

### How an electric fence works

Electric fences deter bears by providing an electric shock when the animal touches the charged wires. Under normal operating conditions, an electric fence functions as an open (incomplete) circuit with repeating pulses of electricity generated by the energizer sent through the charged wires of the fence. When a bear touches a charged wire, it grounds the fence, creating a closed circuit. An electrical pulse travels through the bear and back to the energizer, delivering a shock to the animal.



## Defenders' Electric Fence Incentive Program

If you live or own property on Alaska's Kenai Peninsula, Defenders of Wildlife can help you pay for an electrified barrier to protect it from bears. Our Electric Fence Incentive Program will **reimburse you for 50 percent of the cost—up to \$500.**

Watch us in action: [dfnd.us/electricfencevideo](https://dfnd.us/electricfencevideo)

For more information, contact Jen Christopherson: [jchristopherson@defenders.org](mailto:jchristopherson@defenders.org) or 907-276-9420.

### Resources

#### Expert Advice

Jacob Pelham, *Alaska Department of Fish and Game*  
[jacob.pelham@alaska.gov](mailto:jacob.pelham@alaska.gov)/907-260-2913

#### Funding Assistance

Jen Christopherson, *Defenders of Wildlife*  
[jchristopherson@defenders.org](mailto:jchristopherson@defenders.org)/907-276-9420

#### Electric Fence Supply Companies

Kenai Feed: [www.kenaifeed.com](http://www.kenaifeed.com)

Cad-Re Feed: <http://www.cadrefeed.com/>

Knots-So-Fast Feed Store: [facebook.com/knotssofast/](https://www.facebook.com/knotssofast/)

#### Online Information

<https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=livingwithbears.bearfences>

<http://fwp.mt.gov/fishAndWildlife/livingWithWildlife/beBearAware/bearAwareTools.html> (downloadable guide, *Deterring Bears with Electric Fencing*, available)

<https://defenders.org/got-grizzlies>



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