



Otter Exclusion Toolkit

Practical Considerations & Reference Guide



Here we explore the use of various otter exclusion measures and weigh their benefits and shortfalls to help safeguard your premises effectively.

1. For existing gates, cover the lower portions with wire mesh or smooth plexiglass. Ensuring gaps are tightly spaced to prevent animals from squeezing through

The use of wire mesh or smooth plexiglass is both cheap and practical. However, as securing of the wire mesh is usually done by plastic cable ties or metal cables, the plastic tends to break down from exposure to sun while metal tends to rust, a frequent change-out may be necessary. Modification of gates is a more permanent but often costly solution.



2. Use of fencing at least 1.5m high, add an outward facing overhang.

For condominiums and landed property, existing boundary fences and walls are often effective to stop otters. But as the saying goes, a chain is only as strong as its weakest link. Otters can climb through gaps in the fences (due to design, under-maintenance or soil erosion below the fence) or they may jump in from low-lying neighbouring walls providing access to the compound. A thorough inspection and maintenance of the compound fencing is needed.





3. Erecting a fencing at the pond itself

Erecting of a fence is effective in exclusion of otters but as this is usually done post construction after discovery of otter intrusion, consideration has to be given for existing site conditions—for example space constraints, cracking of tiles in the event of drilling, uneven concrete and hidden utilities.



4. Use of netting coverage over the pond

A cheaper solution compared to fencing and mesh. However, they cannot stop the most determined otters which may bite or claw their way through the nets. Maintenance is also tricky as the nets need to be re-tensioned regularly, cleaned and free of debris. Holes caused by wear and tear need to be immediately patched up or it may eventually lead to bigger holes.



5. Use of metal mesh coverage over the pond

More expensive but highly effective solution. Removable mesh panels allow ease of maintenance while not damaging the existing waterproofing of the pond.

