

# Bridle Gate Installation Checklist



**This checklist covers some of the most important points.  
For more detail please refer to the BHS leaflet on gates.**

1. A full five foot (1525mm) gap should be available for clear passage of horse and rider through the gate. The approach either side of the gate should be straight and clear of obstructions.
2. The ground must be even through the gate line and approaches.
3. The gate must swing freely on its hinges and not require lifting to open or close it.
4. Ensure there are no unnecessary obstructions in the gateway, for example badly designed or badly sited catches that can injure horse or rider or snag on the tack.
5. The gate must open to at least a full 90 degrees and preferably to 130 degrees.
6. There must be sufficient clear manoeuvring space in front of, behind and on either side of the gate to turn the horse safely and easily to operate the gate. No low overhanging branches, barbed or electric wire, ditches, overgrown hedges etc.
7. The gate should be operable from horse back with the lever or catch on the gate itself to enable one handed opening. Where the fastening is not mounted at the top of the gate an extended handle should be provided to enable use on horseback.
8. It is desirable for those riders who do dismount that mounting blocks are provided or placed on the left hand side on exit from the gate, but well outside the horse's manoeuvring space for the gate.
9. For self closing gates, ensure that the gate closing times, and the force of the self closing action are slow and gentle enough to allow clear passage of the horse once the rider lets go of the gate to ride through. (It is normally not feasible to hold on to the gate whilst passing through). As a guide a close time of at least six seconds (from 90 deg) and preferably considerably more is recommended. A closing time of four seconds or less can be very unsafe for horse and rider.

10. One way opening self closing gates can be very difficult for riders and other users to negotiate when going against the direction of opening and having to open the gate towards the horse. One way self closing gates should only be used where there is absolute necessity for the security of stock. Alternative solutions should be used where practicable.
11. The gate, its fittings and installation should also fully take into account those with disabilities and younger users.