# Enhance your gate with fibre sheet

BY AGNES KYOTALENGERIRE

**MAINTENANCE**

**Charanjit Singh, a manager at Crane Roofings Uganda Limited, says fibre sheet gates do not require any magic to maintain. "The fiber is washable; you can use soap and water to wash off the dust. Alternatively, you can wipe it clean with cloth or towel to get rid of the dirt," he says. However, Male advises one to build a shade over the fibre sheet gate to protect it from rain and dust.**

Gate designs and colours are gradually evolving. Elimia Male, a fabricator and proprietor of Kutegeragana Metal Fabricators in Ntinda, Kampala, says lately, people are drifting away from metallic gates and embracing gates coated with fibre sheet.

Male says that in a month, he gets about five orders for gates which are enhanced with fibre sheet.

Fibre sheet is a single layer of carbon fibre reinforced with additional layers of glass fibre resulting in a great value glossy sheet with the appearance of a genuine carbon fibre. Fibre sheet is added on fabricated gates as finishing to cover up the gaps, but also serve as decoration.

Charanjit Singh, a manager at Crane Roofings Uganda Limited, says the fibre sheet-decorated gates trend is catching up and they are replacing iron with fibre.

Singh explains that to use the fibre sheet, a fabricated gate is made depending on the customer's preferred design. Later, the fibre sheet is screwed onto the gate, sealing off the gaps.

Male says using fibre sheet is not restricted to a particular type of gate. It can go on either sliding or swing gates.

He says the fibre sheet is available on the market in 2mm thickness. It comes in different colours, for instance, gold, clear, green, yellow and even black. You can also get those with different patterns.

But Singh is quick to add that the clear design is most popular because it blends with all colours of steel, be it gold, cooper, silver or black.

A square metre of the fibre sheet costs between sh90,000 and sh12,000, depending on the design and colour.

## Merits

Singh says a gate is the face of the house and for that reason, it should be beautiful and attractive.

"Putting a fibre sheet to a fabricated gate adds beauty to the face of the house," he says.

Trevor Turyamureba, a resident of Naalya, who recently fixed a fibre sheet-decorated gate, concurs. "When the fabricator gave me the option of a fibre sheet gate, it did not make a lot of sense to me. But after convincing me, I reluctantly accepted. The choice has paid off," he says.

Turyamureba says the fibre sheet has given his home a facelift.

"Putting fibre sheet to the fabricated metal frame has made the front of my home bright and more attractive," he says.

Male says compared to the steel gates, the fibre sheet-decorated gate is lighter, which makes it easy to manually open or even with an electric motor.

"Generally, a fibre sheet-decorated gate weighs half the weight of a steel gate. For instance, if the gate made of steel weigh 150kg, the fibre sheet-enhanced gate weighs about 70kg," he explains.

Male adds that fibre sheet, as opposed to metal or steel, does not require repainting because they do not rust.

## Costs

Male says a standard gate of 4.0 x2.5 square metre requires about five square metres of fibre sheet. A square metre costs between sh90,000 and sh120,000, depending on the design. If you choose to take a finished product, Male says a fibre-enhanced gate costs between sh4m to 6m. This includes delivery and fixing costs in the radius of Kampala and Mukono districts.



A gate whose beauty has been improved by the fibre sheet

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