



Preparation

Check local ordinances and regulations before building your fence. Before construction, contact your local utility companies to mark any underground cables and pipelines. In addition, it is a good idea to discuss plans with any neighbors along your proposed fence line.

Design and layout

- Determine the number of posts, panels and gates needed to complete the job based on total linear footage. Take into consideration post, panel and gate widths when determining the total number (one post per kit plus one to finish the fence run).
- Adjust layout to accommodate as many full panels as possible. If you must use a partial panel, place it in the farthest rear corner of the property.
- Locate property boundaries and drive stakes into the ground at corners and ends of fence line. It is a good idea to check local municipalities for additional property line ordinances.
- Stretch twine or heavy string between stakes and pull tight to mark layout of fence line.
- Be sure to measure your fence panels and gates prior to determining the location of the postholes. Locate post placement in the following order along the string line:
 - End/corner posts
 - Gate posts
 - Line posts

Installing fences on sloped landscapes

Most yards are relatively level and will allow for a fairly simple installation. If your yard is steeply pitched or very uneven, be sure to allow for the required mounting height of the adjacent panel when setting your posts. You may need to "stair step" the panels in extreme cases (fig. 1).

Digging postholes

- A general rule of thumb is to place 1/3 of the post into the ground. Check local regulations for any special requirements or frost laws. The fence will be stronger if end, corner and gate posts are set at least 6" deeper than needed. Backfill the holes with 6" of gravel to drain water away from the bottom of the posts (fig. 2). Keep the height of your fence panels in mind when digging your postholes.

Kit contents

- **4** - 2x4 fence rail brackets
- **1** - Bottom Rail (Actual size: 2" x 4" - 72")
- **1** - Top Rail (Actual Size: 2" x 4" - 72")
- **11** - Pickets (Actual size: 1/2" x 3-1/2" - 40-1/2")
- **12** - 2" bracket screws
- **8** - 1" bracket screws

Tools and items needed

- 4" x 4" - 6' fence posts*
- Power saw
- Hammer
- Level
- Posthole digger
- Power drill
- Tape measure
- Carpenter's pencil
- Safety glasses
- Gloves
- String
- Grade stakes
- Concrete & gravel
- 2x4 bracing posts
- Exterior wood glue and/or 1" exterior grade fasteners**

* One per panel and one to complete the fence run
**Recommended fasteners

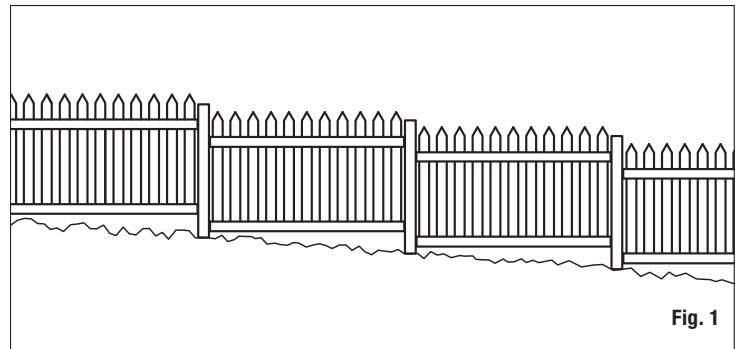


Fig. 1

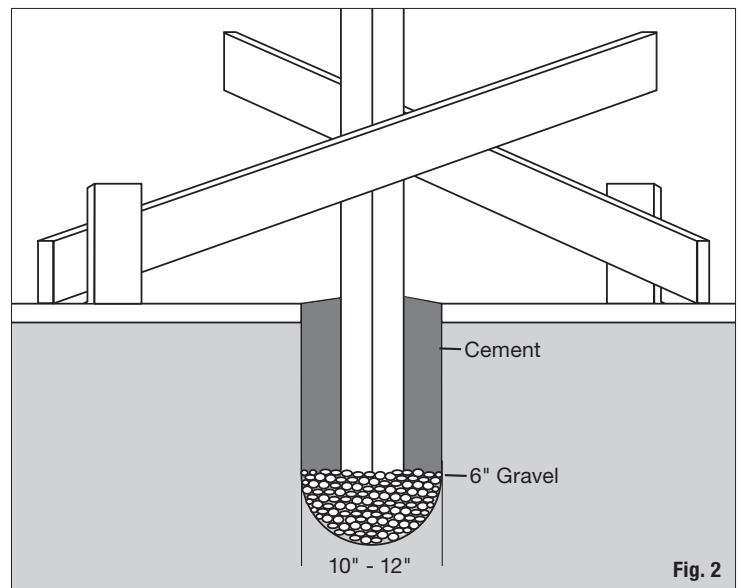


Fig. 2

Setting posts

- Install end and corner posts first. Tie a string between the posts along the fence line. This establishes a reference, ensuring the posts are properly aligned (fig. 3).
- Brace the posts using 2x4s nailed to both the posts and stakes in the ground. This will keep them straight while the concrete sets. Check for plumb (90° angle) on two adjacent sides prior to pouring concrete. Fill hole with ready-mix concrete, following the package instructions. Tamp the concrete to remove any air pockets. Overfill the holes at the top and slope the concrete away from the post to keep water from pooling. Recheck plumb and alignment of all posts and allow concrete to cure according to the manufacturer's instructions.

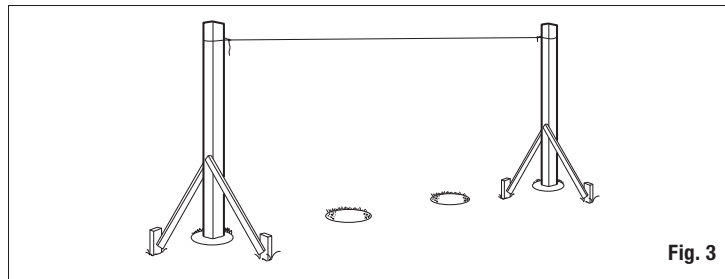


Fig. 3

Cutting posts to proper heights

An easy method to ensure your post tops are level is to run a string from corner post to corner post at the desired height, keeping the string taut. Mark each post at the string line and cut off the tops of the posts. Finish off your posts with optional decorative finial tops or post caps.

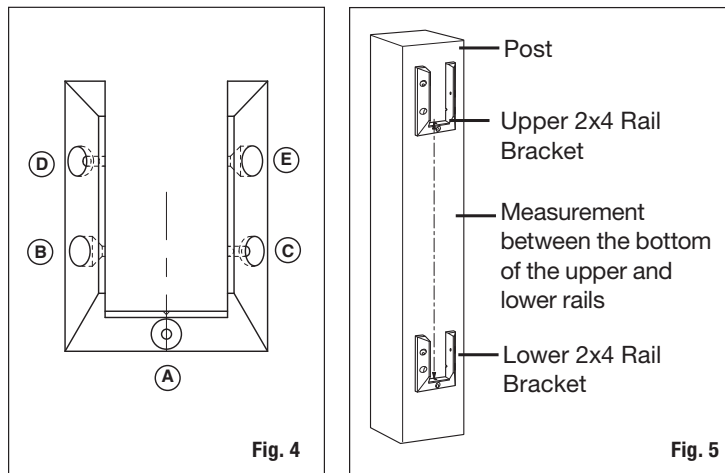


Fig. 4

Fig. 5

Panel construction

- Measure and mark the center of the post for bottom rail placement. Recommended height for the bottom fence rail to the ground is 2". Measure 1-1/2" to the bottom of the bracket.
- Place the bottom fence rail bracket on the fence post and align the center indicator mark on the bracket with the mark on the post. Insert and fasten a 2" screw through the screw hole A (fig. 4) and into the post.
- Measure the height of your fence for placement of the upper fence rail bracket. We recommend 26-1/4" spacing from the top of the bottom bracket to the bottom of the top rail bracket. Mark the center of the post by measuring the bottom of the lower fence rail to the bottom of the upper fence rail (fig. 5).
- Place the top fence rail bracket on the fence post and align the center indicator mark on the bracket with the mark on the post. Insert and fasten a 2" screw through screw hole A (fig. 4) and into the fence post. Repeat steps on next fence post for top and bottom bracket.
- Set your fence rail in place to ensure correct bracket placement. Insert and fasten the 1" fence rail bracket screws through holes B and E to secure the rail and bracket together (fig. 6). Repeat steps for top rail and brackets.
- Insert and fasten the 2" rail bracket screws through holes D and C to finish securing your fence rail system to the post (fig. 6). Repeat steps on next fence post.
- With the fence rails in place, start sliding the pickets through the top rail and into the bottom rail (fig. 7). To secure pickets into place we recommended using exterior wood glue to adhere pickets into the bottom rail or securing with exterior fasteners (nails or screws) through the top rail.

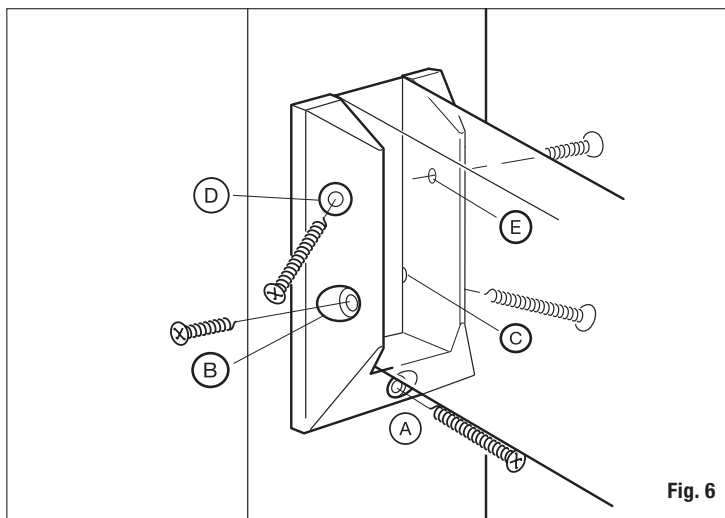


Fig. 6

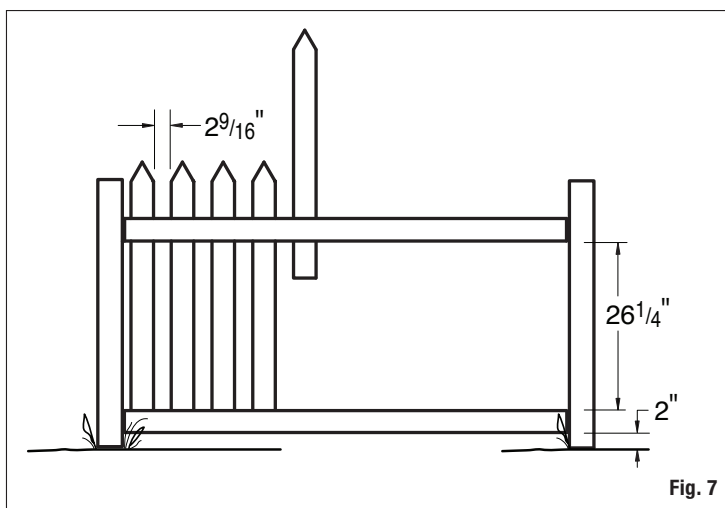


Fig. 7

Finishing your fence

- Applying a protective finish is recommended to prolong the life of your fence. The type of finish will be determined by the look desired, as well as the species of wood used. There are three finished treatment options: stain, paint or waterproofing sealer. Clean your fence with a cleaner/brightener that contains a mildewcide prior to applying your stain.
- **Stain** - provides a durable finish coat while maintaining the natural look of wood. A semitransparent stain is recommended for new fences. It gives an even appearance and a hint of color while allowing the grain to show through.
- **Paint** - adds color as it protects and seals the fence. The color can easily be coordinated with your home. Clean, dry and prime with oil-based primer prior to painting the fence. A durable exterior latex paint is recommended.
- **Waterproofing sealer** - best for woods that are not naturally resistant to decay and exposure to weather. The sealer helps prevent rain and moisture from soaking into the wood. Add a UV stabilizer to slow discoloration.

Care and maintenance

COMMON MAINTENANCE CONCERNS

The continuous changes in weather conditions are extremely harsh on your fence. Your maintenance plan must be geared to combat the problems caused by water absorption and water loss, mildew growth, and discoloration of wood due to the sun's ultraviolet rays. All of the maintenance concerns discussed below are weather-related. The degree to which your fence is affected by them depends on many factors. These factors include general climate conditions (such as normal precipitation, humidity, etc.) and location in your yard (with regard to direct sun exposure, foliage coverage, etc.). If your fence is built using pressure-treated lumber, it is important to note that the pressure treatment does not increase the likelihood that your fence will develop these natural defects to any greater degree than the same material left untreated. These weather-related defects are beyond the control of the pressure treatment process.

NATURAL CHARACTERISTICS OF WOOD

We cannot control the occurrence of the natural characteristics of the wood, which may include raised grain, splitting, warping, shrinking, swelling or twisting. Continuous water absorption and water loss in the wood used for your fence will cause its natural defects to surface. A well-maintained fence will still experience some of these natural defects. However, the extent can be significantly reduced through a maintenance plan.

To effectively combat these maintenance concerns, it will be up to you to follow a preventative maintenance plan.

Your initial maintenance plan should be determined by water absorption and loss, mildew growth and UV discoloration.

- **First-year maintenance:** Reapply cleaner/brightener as described in initial maintenance, and as called for by the finish of your choice (paint, stain or waterproofing sealer).
- **Future periodic preventative maintenance:** Depending on the location of your fence with regard to direct sun exposure, foliage, coverage, etc., it may be sufficient to clean/brighten and recoat every two years. A power washer may be necessary to properly clean your fence.

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