

Getting Started

Before you start your fencing project, here are a few tips to help you save time and cost overruns.



The hardest part of fence building is digging the holes; after that, the structure takes shape quickly. Besides a rented posthole digger, you'll need only a circular saw and basic carpentry tools. Designs vary widely, but just about all fences consist of the same basic elements: A series of posts sunk into the ground connected by top and bottom rails. Before proceeding, check community building and zoning codes. Many specify maximum fence height, distances you can build from property lines and the street, and even the materials you can and can't use.*

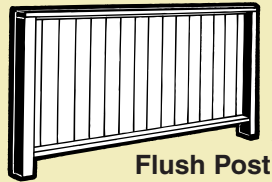
Call before you dig. It's important to know what lies underground before digging or using boring equipment. Check with your utility providers to locate buried facilities.

Once you've chosen a design and established a location, stake out and measure the site. Plot post spacing for the most efficient use of lumber. Six or seven foot spans usually work well; never set privacy-fence posts more than 8 feet apart. If you are building your fence on a slope, plan to step the fence down the hill, setting each section lower than the one preceding it.

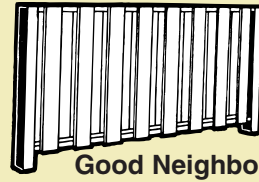
Only if the slope is slight, and the fence design won't suffer, should you follow the contour.

*Pressure Treated Lumber.

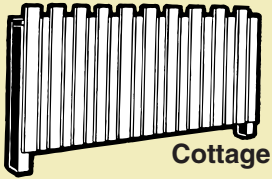
If you are using wood that has been treated with wood preservatives, proper fasteners and hardware must be used.



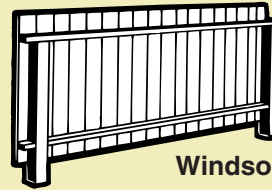
Flush Post



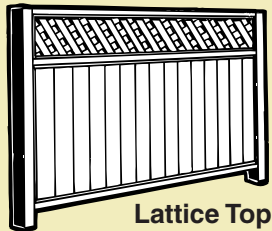
Good Neighbor



Cottage



Windsor



Lattice Top

Upgrades

- Consider using 4" x 6" or 6" x 6" posts to strengthen your fence.
- Use 2" x 6" rails instead of 2" x 4".

Double top rail on edge

Add a mid rail

Double bottom rail on edge



Windsor Plywood

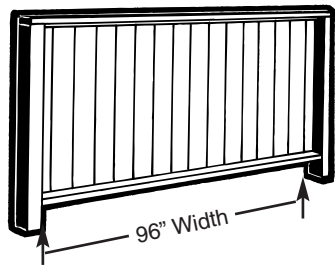
Windsor Plywood's FENCING PLANNER



Step 1: Lay Out Your Fence

Place a stake at either end of your fence line approximately two feet past your corner posts. Run a masons line between the stakes and then repeat for each side of the fence line.

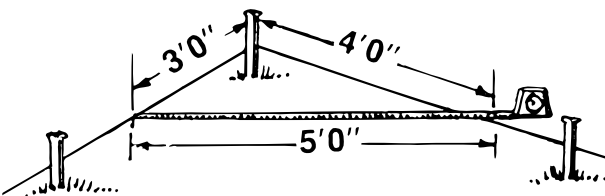
Now mark the placement of your posts according to the style of fence you have chosen. If for example you are placing a 96" rail or fence panel



between 3 1/2" posts, add the two measurements together (99 1/2") to determine the spacing of your posts when measured from post centre to post centre.

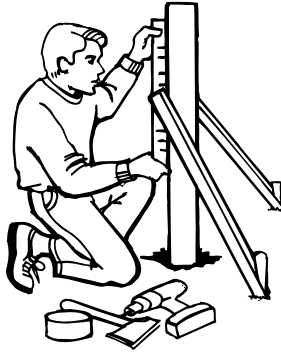
If you are mortising the rails into the posts, deduct the depth of the mortises from your measurements.

If you are placing the top rail on top of the post the space between posts should be the same as the length of your rail. In this style of fence to permit the top rail to extend across the corner posts rather than only to the centre, position the corner post half the post width closer to the adjacent post(s).



How to Find a True 90°

Check the right angle of your fence corners by measuring 3' from the corner along one string and 4' along the other. If the distance between the 3' mark and the 4' mark is 5', the angle is a true 90°.



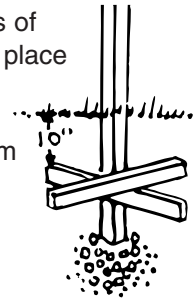
Step 2: Installing The Posts

Dig your post holes at least 24" deep and approximately 10" (3X the diameter of your post) in width. Using temporary braces ensure the posts are level and plumb.

Tip: Try to keep your post hole uniform in diameter.

V-shaped holes are more susceptible to frost heave.

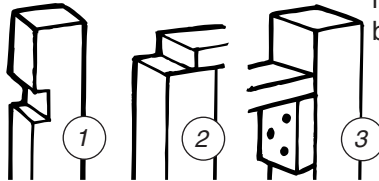
Next place two or three shovel fulls of gravel around the post to hold it in place and then add concrete to the holes. Round off the concrete to encourage water to drain away from the post. Allow concrete to cure before proceeding. Remember that corner and gate posts carry significantly more weight than the others and must be well anchored.



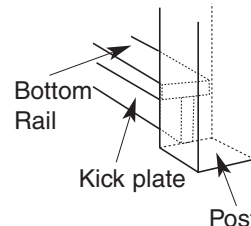
Tip: Post tops should be protected from the weather. Use a post cap or taper the end of the post to shed water.

Step 3: Installing The Rails

Attach top and bottom rails to the posts. Here are three ways to do this. As well in some cases a metal bracket can be used.



To prevent sagging bottom rails should also be supported with a kick plate. If you are installing fence panels set the panels so that the ends come to rest in the centre of the posts. Panels can be attached



directly to the posts or in some cases attached with metal brackets.

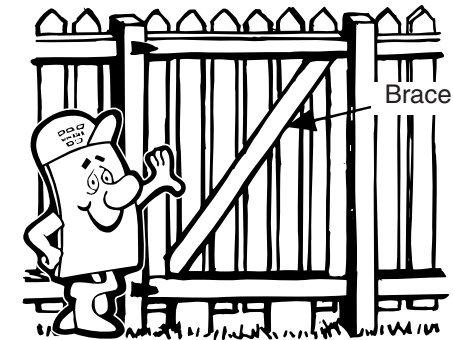
Check each section of rails (or panels) for levelness as you install them. If you are following the contour of the land use a masons line to check the alignment of the rails.

Step 4: Installing The Fence Boards

Remember that most fence boards will shrink after installation. Some styles of fences will allow you to let the boards float in a channel. After the boards have dried they can be pushed together and a spacer board inserted. Most boards have a better side, sort your boards before installing.

Step 5: Gates

Gates put a great deal of stress on the post supporting them so make sure the post is well anchored. As well good quality hinges and hardware will help. If the gate opening is wider than 4' consider making your gate with two doors of equal width.



When building the gate make sure your design includes a cross brace to prevent sagging. The brace should run diagonally

from the lower corner on the hinge side to the upper corner on the latch side.

Depending on the style of fence, your gate will be up to 1" narrower than the opening. When you have assembled the frame of your gate test fit it for fit and function before finishing the assembly. It will be much easier to adjust the size if required at this point.