

# SOME HELPFUL TIPS INSTALLING YOUR POST & RAIL FENCE

## OVERVIEW

You are reading this for one of two reasons, reason one is you have just purchased a beautiful new fence and are excited to work out how to put it together correctly. Or you are considering a new Think Fencing fence and want to see how it goes together.

Like building anything careful planning and preparation is the key to a quality job.

## SITE PREPARATION

If you need to remove an old fence or clean up the area, do this before you start marking out your new fence.

## UNPACKING AND LAYOUT

When your fence arrives you will have a pack of posts, rails, pickets, caps, Gates and other hardware.

It is important to lay all of your components and position them in roughly the correct spot along the fence line with post spacing center to center 2410mm. By doing this you can visually identify where everything goes.

## HOW IT FITS TOGETHER

All posts are slotted to allow the rails to slide into the posts. The rails have outturned tabs that once pushed into the posts spring out fixing the rails firm into the posts whilst still allowing for expansion and contraction.

**Helpful hint:** After you have calculated the center of post spacing simply cut a piece of plastic or timber 127mm shorter than the calculated length and that spacer should fit perfectly in between your posts.

**There are two main methods of installation for the post and rail system.**

### 1. POST 1st METHOD

This method is whereby you install all posts at the correct centers of 2410mm. It is advisable to use a Gauge cut to size of the post to post spacing, this is done by subtracting the width of the post to the post spacing.  $2410 - 127 = 2283\text{mm}$  The Gauge can be made up using either an offcut of PVC rail or a length of timber.

Auger holes at correct spacing. Recommended hole size 300mm wide x 650mm deep.

We recommend using two string lines to get your posts set correctly. One on the top of the post and one on the side. Using string lines along with a level and gauge will make for an accurate fast installation.

## 2. PROGRESSIVE METHOD OF INSTALLATION

This method is recommended for 1st time installers. You auger all holes and place posts in holes.

Slide rails into posts. Level posts using the same method as above however the rails will provide you with correct spacing.

Concrete posts in.

When setting the posts in concrete it is advisable to fill the hole with concrete slurry and push the post into the slurry. This will allow concrete to travel up the core of the post creating a solid foundation.

**Note:** 25Mpa concrete recommended.

In soft sandy areas it may be necessary to dig the hole deeper to achieve a solid footing for your post. You must always have at least 500mm of the post set into the concrete footing to ensure the post will not move in the footing.

## INSTALLING YOUR GATE

### Gate installation

When you provide us with the measurements of your fence and if you are ordering a gate we need to know the gate opening. This is so we can manufacture the gate correctly, taking into consideration a gap for the hinges and latch. When installing a gate there are 4 simple steps that if done accurately will result in a perfect gate installation every time.

### MARKING OUT

Mark out your posts to the correct spacing. So if you have a 1200mm opening it is critical to measure the distance in between the posts to be exactly 1200mm. Dig the holes

### ATTACHING TO A POST

If you have the fence attaching to a gate post you must seal the end of the rails going into the post. Meaning stuff the end of the rails with paper, foam or simply use sticky tape. (this prevents concrete from flowing into the rails. Insert the rails into the post

### FITTING HINGES

Mark out your posts to the correct spacing. So if you have a 1200mm opening it is critical to measure the distance in between the posts to be exactly 1200mm. Dig the holes

### CONCRETING

Using 2 x 12mm Steel REO bar, drive the bars into the ground 100mm below, and level with the top. Set the bars so that they are both spaced evenly apart. (not running along the side of the post) and fill the post with concrete.

Let the concrete set overnight if possible then fit the gate. If you are not able to allow the concrete to set overnight you can prop the gate up so it is not bearing weight on the post. Allow the concrete to set hard before you put any weight on the post.