

Installation Guide for Wood Fence Pickets

Materials Needed:

- Wood fence pickets
- Fence posts
- Concrete mix
- Gravel
- Nails or screws
- Hammer or drill
- Level
- Measuring tape
- String line
- Post hole digger or auger
- Saw (if needed for cutting pickets)

1. Plan Your Fence Layout

- Determine the location and length of your fence.
- Mark the positions for your fence posts using stakes and string line to ensure they are in a straight line.

2. Dig Post Holes

- Use a post hole digger or auger to dig holes for your fence posts. The holes should be about one-third the height of the posts and at least 6 inches wider than the posts.
- Add a few inches of gravel to the bottom of each hole for drainage.

3. Set the Fence Posts

- Place the posts in the holes and use a level to ensure they are plumb (vertically straight).
- Fill the holes with concrete mix around the posts, making sure the posts remain level. Allow the concrete to set according to the manufacturer's instructions.

4. Attach the Rails

- Once the posts are set, attach horizontal rails (also called stringers) between the posts. Typically, you'll need two or three rails depending on the height of your fence.
- Use nails or screws to secure the rails to the posts.

5. Install the Pickets

- Start at one end of the fence and work your way to the other.
- Attach the pickets to the rails using nails or screws. Ensure the pickets are evenly spaced and level. You can use a spacer to maintain consistent gaps between pickets.
- If needed, cut the pickets to fit at the ends or around obstacles.

6. Finishing Touches

- Check the entire fence for any loose pickets or rails and secure them as needed.
- Apply a wood preservative or paint/stain to protect the fence from the elements.

Tips:

- Spacing: Ensure consistent spacing between pickets for a uniform look.
- Height: Check local regulations for fence height restrictions.
- Maintenance: Regularly inspect your fence for damage and make repairs as needed to prolong its life.

Professional Advice: This guide is not intended to replace professional advice. Always seek the advice of a qualified professional and check local building codes and regulations before starting any installation project.