Contemporary Picket Fence

1. Getting Started
- Be sure to call underground prior to digging
- Assemble gates (if necessary) and decide where they will be located
- Stake out the fence line
- Space and mark post hole locations for gate and sections (spacer bar/template may be useful)
- Start at gate end post and work outward to determine proper fence height relative to ground

2. Dig Holes
- Dig holes 30” deep or to frost line
  - hole size for 5 x 5 posts = 12”
  - hole size for 4 x 4 posts = 10”
- Clean holes and check for straight walls

3. Install First Post
- Insert post in hole
- Determine rough height
- Fill hole around post with concrete mix (sand, gravel and cement) approximately 2” below grade
- Tamp concrete in hole to eliminate air pockets
- Level and square post

4. Install Bottom Rail
- Check bottom rail for drain holes
- Tape the ends of any rail being inserted into a post that is to be filled with concrete to prevent concrete seepage
- Depress bullet clip, insert rail in post
- Bullet clip will drop down and hold rail into place

5. Install Second Post
- Insert second post in hole
- Insert bottom rail in post
- Insert block under bottom rail to position at correct fence height
- Fill hole around second post with concrete mix
- Tamp, level and square fence
- Assembly may be continued by installing all bottom rails first, or one section at a time

6. Support and Secure
- Level and square fence
- To lower a post, place a wood block from corner to corner on the post and carefully tap with a mallet
- Never strike the PVC post without a wood support

7. Install Pickets and Rails
- Insert middle rail (if applicable) in post with large holes facing down
- Insert pickets through holes in middle rail
- Insert pickets in bottom rail. Temporarily remove middle rail ends from post. Insert top rail over pickets
- Insert middle rail and top rail in post

8. Secure Rails
- Square pickets and rails
- Check for even picket spacing on each end of rail
- Secure rail inside post with a #8 x 3/4” screw (do this on both ends)
- Level middle rail, secure rail to pickets with (2) #8 x 1-1/2” screws, snap caps and washers evenly spaced along rail

9. Hang Gate/Install Hardware
- For complete details, see gate installation instructions in hardware box
- Position gate between posts
- Allow 1” gap for hinge and 3/4” for latch and gate swing
- Block up gate to square with fence; rails should be level
- Gate hardware must be mounted to two sides of the post

10. Solidify Gate Posts
- It is critical that gate hinge and latch posts are solid to ensure proper gate functionality. Two methods are available:
  A. Concrete and rebar
    - Use two pieces of 1/2” rebar in each hinge, latch and end post
    - Rebar should extend from the bottom of the hole to 12” from the top of the post
    - Hold rebar in opposite corners of post with rebar separator clips
    - Fill post with concrete mix to cover rebar and hardware fasteners
    - Tamp post with a rubber mallet to eliminate air pockets
    - Leave gate on blocks for 72 hours to allow concrete to set
  B. Aluminum gate post stiffener
    - Side aluminum gate stiffener inside hinge, latch or end posts with open end facing routed hole
    - Drive a screw through the vinyl into the aluminum stiffener at the bottom of the post to hold in place
    - Insert post into ground
    - Fill hole with concrete around outside of post

11. Install Caps
- Install post caps
- Caps may be secured with glue, silicone adhesive or #8 x 3/4” screws, caps and washers
Contemporary Picket Fence

Includes: Baron, Countess, Monarch, Princeton, Victorian

- Hold bottom rail in position with bullet clips
- Dig holes 30" deep or to frost line
- 4 x 4 posts = 10" in 5 x 5 posts = 12"
- Allow clearance for gate swing
- Secure middle rail to pickets with (2) #8 x 1-1/2" screws, caps, and washers
- Allow 1" for hinge and ¾" for latch system

Post Support Options
- Rebar, use 2 pieces of ½" rebar in hinge, latch, and end posts
- Post support frame in opposing corners of each post with ½" rebar separator clips
- Insert aluminum and rebar drawer inside post for faster, cleaner installation

Post Centers
- 4 x 4 posts = 96"
- 5 x 5 posts = 97"