Traditional 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
   • Tape the ends of any rail being inserted into a post that is to be filled with concrete to prevent concrete seepage
   • Insert rail into post
   • Level and square fence

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
   • Level and square fence

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 top rail in post
   • Rail ends have been crimped to hold inside posts

8. Install Pickets
   • For field assembly, insert hex washer head screw through large (3/4") pre-drilled hole in top rail
   • Align pre-drilled hole in picket, tighten with 1/2" deep socket wrench or nut driver with cluth/drill (do not overtighten)
   • Repeat for bottom rail
   • Insert (3/4") hole plug into hole in back side of rail

9. Secure Rails
   • Square pickets and rails
   • Check for even picket spacing on each end of rail
   • Top rail may be secured inside post with a #8 x 3/4" screw on each end

10. 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

11. 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
         - Slide 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

12. Install Caps
    • Install post caps
    • Caps may be secured with glue, silicone adhesive or #8 x 3/4" screws, caps and washers
Traditional Picket Fence

Includes: Cape Cod, Charleston, Providence, Yorkshire
Traditional Picket Fence
Danbury (straight and concave)
Rothbury (straight and concave)

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- 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 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 in post

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
- Insert top rail in post with large holes facing down
- Insert pickets through holes in top rail
- Insert pickets in bottom rail. Pickets are crimped to hold in rail

8. Secure Rails
- Square pickets and rails
- Check for even picket spacing on each end of rail
- Top rail may be secured inside post with a #8 x 3/4” screw on each end

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
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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
    - Slide 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
- Insert post caps
- Caps may be secured with glue, silicone adhesive or #8 x 3/4” screws, caps and washers
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