

# 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
    - 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

- 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

