

## Picket Fence Installation

### RECOMMENDED TOOLS AND MATERIALS

- STRING
- STAKES
- MARKING CHALK OR PAINT
- SAW
- TAPE
- LEVEL
- POST HOLE DIGGER
- SHOVEL
- MEASURING TAPE
- CONCRETE

### STEP ONE

Check area for obstructions, underground cables, water lines, gas lines, etc. Be sure to comply with all local building codes.

Plan for gates. Make the opening between posts exactly the ordered size of the gate. The actual size of the gate will be 1.5" smaller to allow clearance for hinges and latch. For example, a 36" wide gate will be made 34.5" wide. Be sure the posts are plumb, level and aligned.

Allow for short sections. In almost every situation the layout you have chosen will require a section shorter than the pattern that was purchased. This is done by cutting the top and bottom rails to length. The remaining length can be used through the corner or discarded and a new section started.

For sloped ground, nibblers or files suitable for PVC can be used to enlarge a routed hole or the fence can be stepped (see FENCE STEPPING).

In some cases it is necessary to run a fence across concrete or deck material. This can be done by purchasing post mounts. The post is then cut off to the correct height and slipped over the mount.

### STEP TWO

Using stakes and string, run a line that will locate where the fence posts will be positioned. Use a fence post and set it on top of the ground at the first corner. Put stakes as shown (see Diagram 1). Repeat for all corners. Run the line at same height as desired for bottom rail.

### STEP THREE

Use a measuring tape and marking chalk/paint to run along the string and mark for the center posts.

### STEP FOUR

Remove string without removing stakes. Using auger bit (8" for 4" posts, 12" for 5" posts) or a post hole digger, dig down to proper depth while remaining plumb. Repeat for each post mark.



