How to Install Chain Mesh Fencing

Thank you for choosing Jacksons Fencing. Our high quality fencing products will last for years and give you trouble-free service if you follow the installation instructions below, which are offered as a general guide.

**Tools**
- String line
- Clawhammer
- Spade / shuvholer Shovel
- Saw
- Rammer
- Screwdriver
- Post level
- Post driver
- Pliers
- Pencil
- Peeler Bar
- Sledgehammer
- Spanners
- Maul
- Tape measure
- Marker pegs
- Ring Clips & Clip Gun

**Materials**
You will need the correct quantity of posts, corner posts, rails, rolls of chain-link, line and tie wire, cement and ballast. For changes in direction, use 2 posts, unless the corner is at a $90^\circ$ angle. Also allow extra posts either side of a gate.

1) Clear and level the site.
2) Establish ends, corner positions and changes of direction, and mark with pegs.
3) Each section of fence will be built in turn. For example: from the beginning to the first change of direction; the first change of direction to the second, and so on.
4) To establish the line for the first length of fence, you will need to put in the first post and the last post, so these can be used as sighting posts. If it is a very long section of fence, you may prefer to work in shorter straight sections.
5) Dig the hole for the first post with vertical sides, making the hole as small as practical to allow for refilling and ramming.
6) Place the first post in the hole, allowing enough of it above ground to suit the height and style of fence. The narrowest side of the post faces along the fence line, with the highest side of the weathered top on the side which takes the rails.
7) Replace excavated soil a bit at a time, ramming in well as filling proceeds. If the ground conditions are very soft, it is advisable to set the posts in a weak concrete mix. Use the post level to make sure it is upright, and ram in firm.
8) Plant the last post as before. If this is a change of direction, you can put the first post of the second section in at the same time.
9) Fix the string line between the first and last post and pull taut. The string line should be about 750mm above ground.
10) It is easier to place the posts in line if the string is 50mm away from the edge of the post. Mark out the post centres along the section (according to the style of fence being installed). Make a small hole with the peeler bar to mark the post centres. You may have to have a short bay next to the last post. Only dig a few holes at a time, otherwise you may make a cumulative error.

11) Move the string line out of the way, and dig out the holes to the correct size and depth. Then replace the string line.

12) When installing the second post, you will be able to sight across the first post and the last post to ensure the second post is at the correct height. If the ground is undulating, the fence should follow the contours of the ground. Make sure you install the top rail as you go.

13) If the fence post needs lowering, the hole will need digging out a bit deeper, or you may be able to knock the post in if it only requires to go down a small amount. This can be done by using the side of a sledge hammer or maul. If the post needs raising, some of the excavated soil will need to be put back and rammed tight. This can be done by using the post itself as a rammer.

14) When the post is at the correct height and in line with the string line, it can be backfilled and rammed as above.

15) The rails should be nailed using 100mm galvanized wire nails: 2 nails to fix each rail end and middle rail. The nails should be driven in so that they are at an angle to each other (dovetailed).

16) When the posts are in and set, unroll a coil of line wire and strain between the posts. This is done by using the line wire with a wire strainer, which is stapled to the straining posts.

17) The line wires should run past the face of the post and be fixed with wire. The number of line wires depends on the height of the fence.

18) The next job is to fit the chain link mesh. Stand the roll on end with the exposed edge against the post, and staple in place.

19) Unroll the chain link fencing along the line of the fence, pulling the mesh as tight as possible as you go. Hold the chain link to the line wires using temporary tying wires or string at intervals. If one roll of chain link is not sufficient to reach the next strainer, or if the roll is longer than the next straining position, the rolls of chain link will have to be: a) joined, or b) split. To carry out these operations, proceed as follows.

20) Pull the fence taut, and staple to the straining post. You may prefer to make up a clamp bar arrangement which will allow the chain link to be pulled more evenly. You should not be able to easily pull the links apart when you grasp the chain link with your hand.
21) To complete the fence, it is then only necessary to attach it to the line wires by either tying wire twisted with pliers, or by ring clips fastened with a clip gun. The ties or clips should be spaced at 150mm centres on the top line wire, and at 450mm centres on the rest.

22) Tidy up the site, making sure no off cuts of wire are laying around, as they may cause injury to children and animals.

**Maintenance**

The Chain Link Fence should be checked periodically for damage to the link and line wires. If the link has been damaged, a new section should be placed in. If a line wire has broken, a join should be made with more wire, making sure that the join will allow the original tension to be applied.