

How to Install Post and Rail

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.

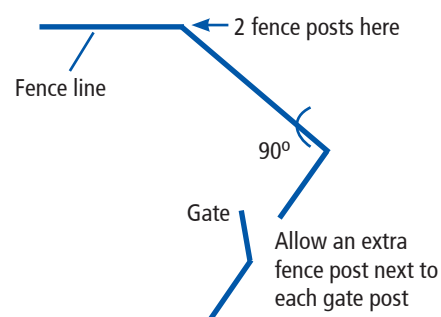
All timber post installations require proper drainage at the base of the post to avoid rot. For details please refer to the installation instruction "Timber Fence Posts".

Tools

String line	Post level	Clawhammer	Post driver	Maul
Spade / shuvholer	Tape measure	Saw	Pencil	Marker pegs
Rammer	Peeler bar			

Materials

You will need the correct quantity of posts, corner posts, rails and fixings according to the style of Post & Rail being installed, and to suit the length of fence. Don't forget prick posts if you are installing Sawn Morticed Post & Rail. For changes in direction, use 2 posts, unless the corner is at a 90° angle. Also allow extra posts either side of a gate.



Method

- 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. If the fence has a morticed post, the mortice holes face along the fence line. If the fence has nailed on rails, 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. For morticed fencing, this should not be made firm until the rails have been placed.

- 9) Fix the string line between the first and last post and pull taut. The string line should be about 750mm above ground. It is easier to place the posts in line if the string is 50mm away from the edge of the post.
- 10) 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 planting 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. If the fence posts are morticed, the rails need to be fitted loosely into the mortices until the fence post is positioned correctly.
- 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 sledgehammer 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) If the fence posts are not morticed, the rails should be fixed in position to the first and second post.
- 16) Nailed post and rail fences always have the joints staggered where the rails fix to the post, in order to build strength into the fence. As building progresses, the ends can be used to correctly space the next post.
- 17) The rails should be nailed using 100mm galvanized wire nails: 2 nails to fix each rail at each end and in the middle of the rail. The nails should be driven in so that they are at an angle to each other (dovetailed).
- 18) When fitting the rails into morticed posts, the rails should be positioned so that on:
 - a) Jakcured sawn mortice, the scarfed rail end joint is central on the post in the single mortice.
 - b) Special morticed, the rails protrude through the single mortice in the post on either side by about 25mm.
- 19) Tidy up the site, making sure no nails have been left laying around in case they cause injury to children or animals. Finally, treat all ends with Cut & Treat.

Maintenance

Post and Rail fencing should be inspected at regular intervals, to see if it has been physically damaged. The sooner a small problem is put right, the less chance there is of it becoming a major problem. Broken rails should be replaced, and loose posts re-rammed as soon as possible.

Safety Notes:

Biocidal Products Regulation (EU528/2012):

Jakcured articles incorporate biocidal products to protect against wood destroying organisms.

Active ingredients include: Copper(II)Carbonate / Copper(II)Hydroxide / Propiconazole / Tebuconazole

Wear gloves when handling freshly treated wood. Avoid breathing dust when cutting. Dispose of off-cuts responsibly – do not burn.

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