

How to Install a Single or Double Metal Field / Estate Gate

Thank you for choosing Jacksons Fencing. Our high quality fencing products are made to last. We recommend you follow the installation instructions below which are offered as a general guide.

For double gates follow the same procedure, but allow a 25mm clearance between the gates, and install the centre gate stop after the gates have been hung. The centre stop and drop bolt are essential for double leaf gates, as it supports them in their closed position.

Please note that we do not recommend installing the posts prior to having the gates on site.

Tools required:

Tape Measure	Post Level	Marker Pegs	Pencil
Spade/Shuvholer	Saw	Adjustable Spanner	
Hammer	Tamper/rammer	Long Straight Edge Plank	

Materials required:

Gate Hanging Post (Two hanging/slam posts if a double gate)	Gate Slamming Post	Ballast	Cement
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Method:

1. Clear and level the site. The ground over which a gate will hang and swing must be reasonably level.
2. Assuming the gate is the correct width to span the road or fit the gap, the first job is to dig the holes for the posts. We recommend digging the hanging post first. This post has to be set firmly in the ground in concrete to the correct depth to accommodate the height of the gates, plus a few centimetres for ground clearance. Remember that ground clearance has to allow the gate to swing over the highest point in its movement, so spend a bit of time checking how level or irregular the ground actually is. Note: If the gate is an estate gate, more ground clearance will be required if the rails are to be installed at the same height as the rails on a run of Estate Fencing.
3. To check ground clearance, use a long plank or straight edge and spirit level. You should drive a peg into the ground adjacent to the approximate position of the hanging post, and another in the approximate position of the slamming post. These pegs are to accommodate the straight edge, and should be driven in to give a level across the gateway with approximately 50 - 75mm clearance.
4. Move the plank round from the hanging post side to various points around the swing of the gate and in the level position, checking the ground clearance. When the spirit reads level, check the clearance between the bottom of the plank and the ground. If the dimension is the same in each case the ground is level. If the dimension is less the ground is higher; lower if the dimension is more. When you have ascertained the ground levels, you need to decide the best clearance to leave under the gate with the gate in its closed position to allow it to swing through its desired arc.
5. Dig the hole for the hanging post with vertical sides and to the correct depth, to accommodate the height of the gate plus clearance that you have just established. The hole should be about 400 - 450mm square, but may need to vary in size if the ground is soft.
6. The hole for the slam post can also be dug now, or left until the gate is swinging (see stage 10).
7. Check that the post is upright and to the correct height, then back fill the hole with an 8:1 mix of cement and ballast.

8. The post may need temporary braces to hold it in position whilst the concrete sets. The top of the concrete should be trowelled away so it will shed off water. You may prefer to leave the finished concrete a few centimetres below ground level, so soil or road / drive finishing material can be levelled across for a neat finish around the post.
9. The gate can now be lifted onto the rides. It may require a knock with the hammer (use a piece of wood to stop the gate being damaged) to drop it down into position, and the gate should now swing freely.
10. Swing the gate round to its closed position, and if you have not already dug the slam post hole (in stage 6), then dig it now. Plant the post in the hole at the correct height, so when upright, the edge of the gate is approximately 20 - 25mm in from the edge of the post. With the post held in position, back fill it with concrete (see stage 7). Repeat stages 6 - 9 for double gates.
11. Check the gate over. Any minor adjustments to level can be made with the adjustable bottom hinge. This is done by loosening the inner nut, and tightening the outer nut to lift the gate.
12. Tidy up the site, and finally apply some grease to the gate ride pins.

Maintenance

Provided the gate has been installed correctly it should not give you any problems, but if it drops over a period of time, adjustments can be made by the method described in stage 11. If a gate is locked and has to be climbed, this should be done at the hinge end to avoid damage by leverage. Also, remember that it is best to keep the gate shut, as holding it open for long periods of time can cause some warping.