

Installation Guide

Timber Fence Panels

Preparation

Top Tip: The best time of year to erect a fence is early spring or late autumn

- Before you start, remove any plants or debris, treating the area with weedkiller.
- Determine the location of all posts, measure and mark the spots using a string line and pegs.
- Measure a length of 6ft on the ground from the first post to indicate where the next post should be dug.
- Most fence panels and wooden posts are pre-treated to prevent rot and insect attack, but it is good practice to treat any sawn ends with an all-purpose wood preservative to extend life even further.
- You need approximately a 2ft longer post than the finished height of your fence, accounting for extra height if you plan to fit a trellis.

Posts

- Following your string line, dig a hole for each post about 600mm deep by 300mm square.
- Add gravel until the hole is 25mm full to aid drainage and prevent rot.
- Place the fence post into the hole, hammering pegs or screwing timber batons in place to support posts until ready to add postcrete.
- Next fill holes with postcrete, be sure to follow manufacturer's instructions and use your spirit level to ensure that the post remains vertical on both sides, and in line with your string line.
- Use a trowel to smooth the concrete surface downwards so that rainwater will drain away from the wooden post.

Attaching Fence Panels

- If using fence clips, attach the fence clips to the post approximately 150mm from the top of the post and 150mm up from the bottom
- Slide the fence panel between the clips, using 35mm secure external grade screws to secure in place.
- At the base of each panel, you can fit pressure treated gravel boards to raise the board off the ground, to prevent rotting. Ensure you leave a 150mm gap below the panels.
- Continue working this way until all the fence panels are in place.
- To prologue to life of the posts, add a post cap using sealant and nail down to ensure water tight.

Maintaining Your Fence

Cleaning Your Fence

- Before applying wood stain, you must ensure that your fence is clean and dry.
- If the fence is sturdy enough, you can wash it with a pressure washer.
- Remove any green or black mould with watered down bleach.

Repair work

- You can use glue to repair minor damage like splits or small cracks.
- Loose boards can be tightened up as you go, replacing these with stainless steel screws, keeping them in place with caulk.
- If the parts of the fence are damaged beyond repair replace them.

Staining Your Fence

- Check the forecast 24 hours before you start painting, it's crucial to plan any outdoor painting job on a warm and dry day, as cold weather or staining in the Sun will hinder the drying process ruining the effects of your hard work.
- If your fence panels have already been exposed to rain, wait for them to completely dry first.
- Apply with a brush, a roller or with a power sprayer. Always paint in the same directions as the grain of the timber. Start at the top and work your way down.
- Ensure you choose the right paint or stain that is suitable for your fence. There are a wide range of wood stains and paints available to choose from. Check on the tin for exterior applications and coverage to make sure you buy enough.

