

45 BASIC BOARD FENCE



Instructions



Fig. 1

1) Prepare and Set the Posts

Coat the ends of each post with a waterproof deck sealer (Fig. 1).

Dig holes for and install the corner posts first, setting them below the frost line and on a 6-inch tamped bed of crushed rock or gravel so their end grain does not sit in water.

Next, stretch a taut mason's line between the corner posts to help locate the intermediate holes and posts; try to space them evenly about 6 feet apart.

Gradually backfill each hole with soil and tamp every four inches. Then fill the area around the posts with a well-tamped mix of earth and gravel or with concrete for extra strength at corners and gate openings. Check for plumb.



Fig. 2

2) Mark the Lower Fence Rail Position on the Posts

Establish a level for the lower rail at least a few inches above the ground and, on each post, mark placement for the top and bottom edges of the lower rail. (Fig. 2)



Fig. 3

3) Cut the Posts to Accept the Lower Rail

Between the marks, make several kerf cuts 1-1/2 inches deep with a circular saw. Chisel out each post to accept the rail. (Fig. 3)



Fig. 4

4) Join the Lower Rails at Corners

At the corners, inset intersecting rails and screw them in place (after predrilling to avoid splits) with galvanized deck screws. (Fig. 4)



Fig. 5

5) Affix an End Post to the House, If Necessary

If your fence will meet the house, fasten an end post to your home's siding. Make sure the post is plumb; you may need to insert spacers or shims if the siding is irregular or slanted. (Fig. 5)



Fig. 6

6) Adjoin the Upper Rails

Center the joint between upper rails in the post notches, then predrill the rails before screwing them to the posts. (Fig. 6)



Fig. 7

7) Install the Pickets

Cut a 1/2-inch spacer to simplify installation of the pickets. Periodically check for plumb as you work along the rails. (Fig. 7)



Fig. 8