AMERICAN FENCES, INC.

Congratulations!

You have just made an investment in added security and long lasting beauty by purchasing an American Fence. Because we want you to be happy with your new fence, and to get as much life out of it as possible, we have broken down the installation instructions into 9 easy-to-follow steps. It is possible to install your new fence alone, but you will be able to do it in half the time (and with much less aggravation) if you have one or two helpers.

Following is a list of tools that you will need and a little information about the fence you bought. Although not all of the tools are necessary, they are strongly recommended because their use will help insure an easier installation and a more durable and attractive finished product.

Post Hole Digger	String
Hammer	Spade or Shovel
Wood Saw	Level
Wood Chisel	Crayon
Tape Measure	#12 Penny
	Galvanized Nails

Tamper (a long relatively light bar with a blunt end to tamp the dirt tightly around each post)

Your fence is made up of 3 basic components, POSTS, PICKETS and BACKING RAILS. A post whose holes are drilled all the way through is a LINE

POST. A post drilled halfway through is an END POST. One in which the holes have been drilled at right angles is a CORNER POST. All of our posts are drilled at our shop to accommodate each panel of fence. The panel, or section, is normally 8′ long and consists of either 2 or 3 horizontal or BACKING RAILS which run along the back of the fence and are doweled at both ends. Nailed to the backing rails are the PICKETS. Each of these items can be purchased separately or already assembled at our shop.

Instructions

1. With crayon, mark each post down from the top whatever the height of the fence is to be, plus 2 inches. (Example: If fence is to be 6′ high, mark each post 6′ plus 2″ from the top, since the post will extend 2″ over the fence.)

2. Dig first hole so that crayon mark on post lines up with grade. Check to see that post is plumb and that the holes are facing the way you want the fence to go. Fill hole and simultaneously tamp dirt around post until it is tight in ground.

3. Dig hole for your LAST POST and put post in. DO NOT FILL AND TAMP, but make sure it is plumb. Drive a nail into first post approximately 6″ above ground, leaving head of nail well exposed. Do the same at last post, and run a string from nail to nail. This establishes your line for the fence.

4. Put tape measure 2″ inside bottom hole in first post and measure 8′ along string line. Mark ground at 8′ on center and dig hole.

5. Drop post in at correct grade (crayon mark) but do not fill and tamp.

6. Install panel into first post. It will be easiest to angle the panel and to start by putting the top dowel into the top hole, then lower the panel into the other

noles. If the panel is tight you can use your hammer to drive the dowel into the hole.

7. Nail through first post into dowels to help secure panel. Leave heads of the nails exposed in case panel has to be moved.

8. Attach line post to panel as in Step 7. Make sure post is plumb and against string line. Check for height using crayon mark and adjust as needed. Fill and tamp.

9. Repeat Steps 4 through 8 until last section.
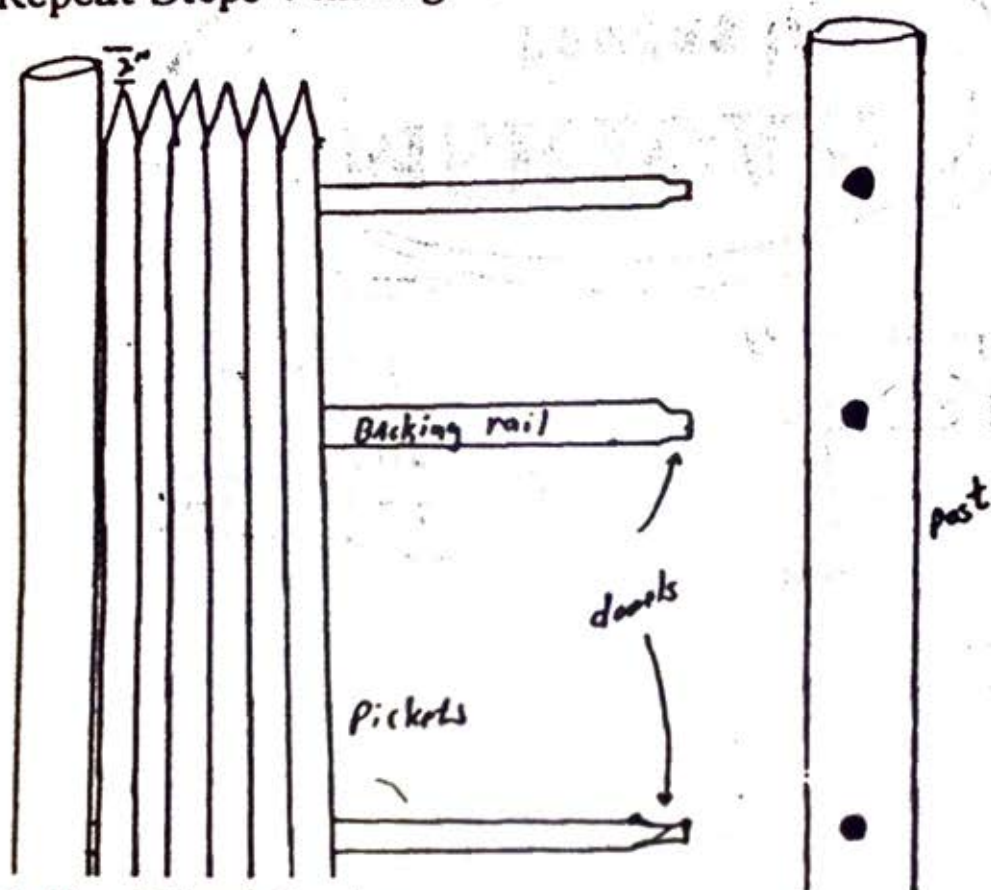

Installing Final Section

1. Measure from 2″ inside bottom hole on last line post to end (or corner) post and add 2″. This will give you the correct measurement of your backing rails.
2. Mark this measurement on each backing rail and remove the pickets to just beyond this point
3. Cut backing rails at this point. Your panel should be the right size to fit the opening between the last line post and the end post.
4. Measure 2″ back from undoweled end and mark. This will be your new dowel

5. With a saw, cut ¼" through each backing rail all around the rounded part of the backing rail, making sure not to cut all the way through.
6. With hammer and chisel, knock out wood from cut end of backing rail to the ¼" cut to make a new dowel.
7. Install panel as before, tamp post and reinstall pickets if necessary.

Corners

To make a corner, one or both panels may need their backing rails cut on a 45° angle as shown:

CUT AWAY TOP VIEW

backing rail

post →
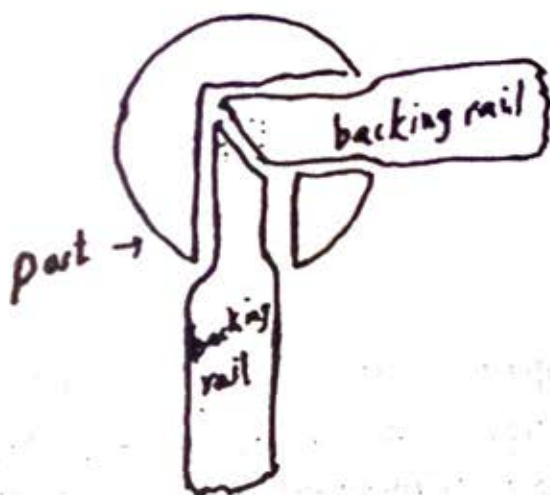
backing rail

Racking for Grade

If the land runs uphill, the panels may have to be racked to compensate for changes in grade. To rack a panel, pick the panel up by the backing rails 2 to 3 feet and drop the panel onto its lower left or right corner. The force of the drop will shift the pickets enough to compensate for most small grade changes without damaging the panel.

Finishing

When the fence is completely assembled, go back and set all the nails.

Instructions for hanging gates

1. Mark the post that the gate will hang on approximately 3" above the top backing rail, and approximately 5" above the bottom backing rail. (Fig. 1.)
2. Using a ¼" bit, drill pilot holes into the post to accommodate the male hinges. Note that holes

Should be drilled at a 45 degree as in (Fig 2).

3. Screw in male hinges until about 1½" is exposed.

4. Hold gate in place between posts making sure that:

   a. gate uprights are flush across the top with gate posts.

   b. there is equal space between gate uprights and gate posts on both sides.

   c. there is sufficient clearance beneath the gate to allow for swing. (Fig. 1).

5. Mark gate upright where it lines up with male hinges previously installed.

6. Using a ⅜" bit, drill pilot holes for female hinges. Holes should be drilled at 45 degrees as in (Fig. 2).

7. Screw in female hinges until approximately 1½" is left.

8. With male hinges facing up, drop female hinges over male hinges, and adjust as needed by turning either top or bottom hinge.

9. With gate hung, find a comfortable spot on opposite upright to position latch.

10. Mark and drill a ½" hole through the center of the upright, and feed S-latch through hole and attach handle (Fig. 2).

11. Hammer striker into gate post so S-latch will fit into striker.

12. If you are installing a pool latch, fasten striker to post and drill a ½" hole above striker through post. Feed cable through hole and attach ring to cable outside of fence.
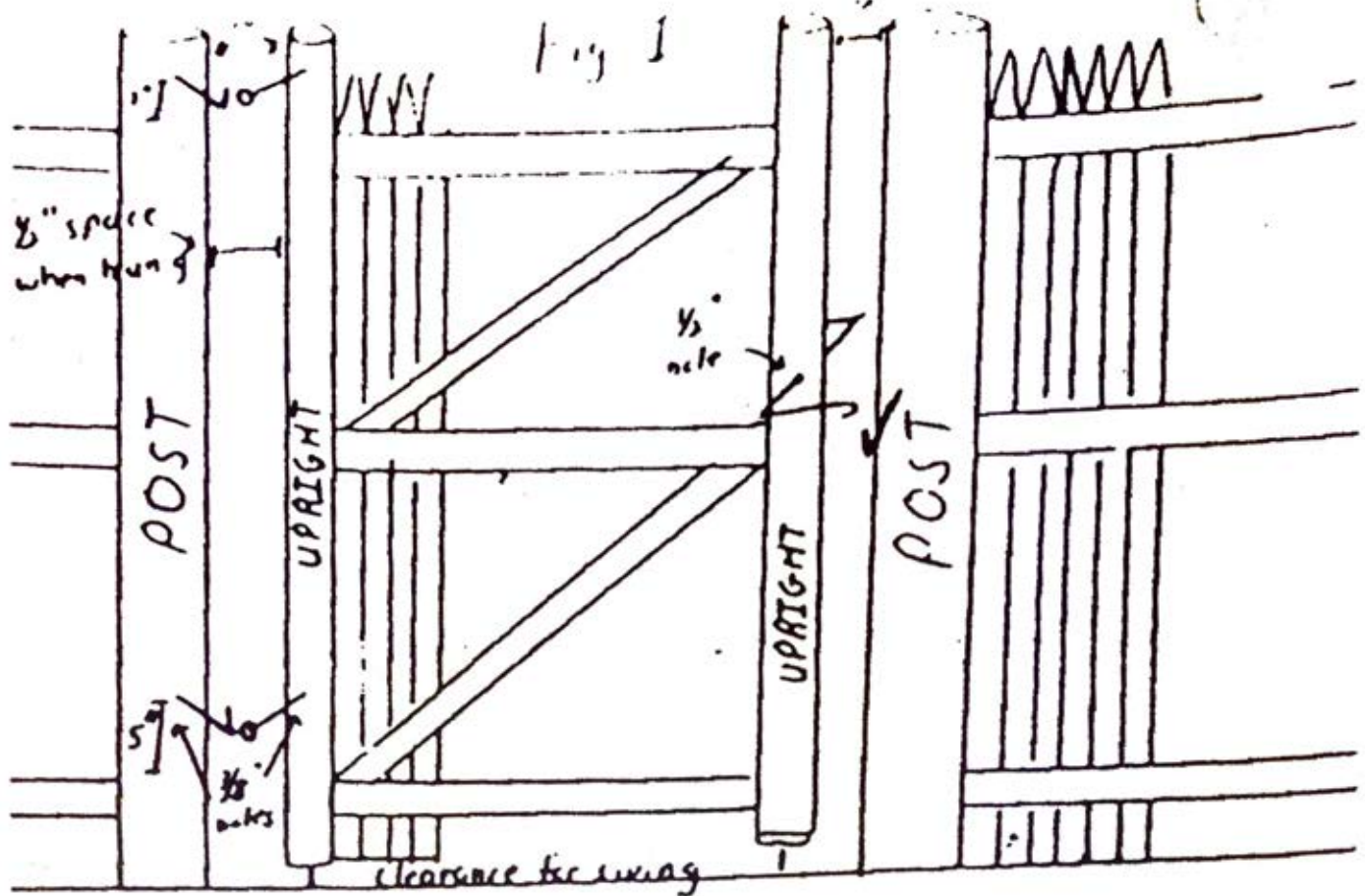
Fig. 1

FIG. 2