

Installing a PVC fence requires thoughtful planning, accurate post placement, and compliance with local regulations. A successful installation ensures the fence remains level, plumb, and stable - especially in areas prone to high wind or frost heave. The following guidelines provide an overview of best practices for installation.

Recommended Tools and Materials

- Protective Clothing
- String & Stakes
- Shovel
- Safety Glasses
- Tape Measure
- Post Driver/Pounder
- Hearing Protection
- Level
- Brackets/Collar for Pipe
- Marking Pencil/Chalk/Paint
- Miter saw

Section #1: Planning and Preparation

- Locate property lines and all underground utilities. Check local municipality codes and HOA rules for height limits, setback requirements, and design restrictions.
- Allow for short sections. In almost every situation the fence layout will require a section shorter than the purchased pattern. This is done by cutting the top and bottom rails to length or sections may be 'equalized' by ripping a picket per section to make them all appear to be the same size.
- Plan for gates by making the opening between posts exactly the ordered size of the gate. Typically gates are built to be 1-1/2" smaller than the ordered size to allow clearances for hinge and latch set installation.
- For sloped ground, nibblers or files suitable for PVC can be used to enlarge a routed hole, or the fence can be stepped to maintain a clean, level appearance.
- In some cases, it is necessary to run a fence across concrete or deck material. This can be done by installing appropriate size post mounts. The post is then cut off to the correct height and slid over the mount.

Section #2: Fence Layout

- Using stakes and string mark the fence path to establish where the fence posts will be positioned. Use a fence post and set it on top of the ground at the first corner. Put stakes in the ground and repeat at all corners and ends. Run the line at the height desired for the bottom rail.
- Measure the panel spacing to determine the "on-center" post spacing by combining the panel width (commonly 6-8 feet) with the post width (typically 5").

Section #2: Fence Layout (Continued)

- Use a measuring tape to locate the center position of each post. Mark the location with chalk/paint.

Section #3: Post Installation

- Dig post holes to a depth of 30" to 36" below ground level, or below the frost line in colder regions to prevent shifting.
- Make each hole diameter 2 to 3 times the width of the fence post.
- Add a drainage layer 3" to 6" deep of gravel/fine sand to the bottom of each post hole to promote drainage and reduce frost-related movement.
- Install the fence posts into each post hole.
- Fill each hole with concrete, leaving the top 3" to 4" for soil or sod.
- Ensure every post is perfectly plumb and aligned with the string line before the concrete sets.
- Allow concrete to cure for 24 to 72 hours before installing or using gates.
- Gate posts must be set in concrete and filled internally with concrete for added strength. A metal or wood stiffener can be used instead of concrete for increased rigidity.

Section #4: Bottom and Top Rail Installation Preparation

- The bottom and top rails should be cut to a length where they will insert 1-1/2" into the routed hole on the fence post.
- Please reference VEKA's Fence Reinforcement Guidelines for recommended usage of metal stiffeners in the top and bottom rails.

Section #5: Rail and Picket Installation (Open Top Fence Section)

- Insert the bottom and top rails into the routed holes on the fence post. Repeat this step for each fence section.
- Maintain ground clearance by keeping approximately 2" between the bottom of the bottom rail and the ground.
- Install the pickets by feeding them through the routed holes on the top rail down into the bottom rail.

Section #6: Rail and Picket Installation (Closed Top Fence)

- Insert the bottom rail into the routed holes on the fence post. Repeat this step for each of fence section.
- Maintain ground clearance by keeping approximately 2" between the bottom of the bottom rail and the ground.
- Beginning on one end of the section, place the first picket into the routed hole or pocket of the bottom rail. Continue until all pickets are placed into the bottom rail.
- When using tongue and groove pickets, interlock the pickets as you assemble. For less than full sections, a ripped picket may be necessary. Attempt to keep ripped pickets no smaller than 3", rip an additional picket on the other end of the panel if necessary to avoid ripped picket pieces less than 2-1/2" to 3".
- Place one end of the top rail into the routed post hole and guide it to the opposite routed post hole. Insert the pickets into the top rail as you move down the fence panel. After all pickets are inserted into the top rail, slide the loose end of the top rail into the routed post hole. Repeat this step for all fence top rails.

Section #7: U-Channel Installation

- For privacy fence sections install the u-channel with 2 to 4 anchor points in between the bottom of the top routed hole and the top of the bottom routed hole on the fence post. Repeat this step, installing all u-channels.
- Install the u-channels to the fence posts before installation of the tongue and groove pickets and top rail.

Section #8: Final Steps

- Place and secure picket and/or post caps with a PVC adhesive or silicone to prevent them from loosening.
- Clean the fence by rinsing off any concrete splatter or soil before it dries.