



Wood & Wire Installation Primer

Before You Start

Make sure there are no underground utilities or other potentially problematic or dangerous surprises. All states require you to call Dig Safe or a similar agency before digging.

Tools Needed

Shovel

Post hole digger

Level

String line

Hammer

Wire cutters

Metal bar and tamper – available from Home Depot or Lowers - <https://www.homedepot.com/p/Husky-69-in-Post-Hole-Digger-and-Tamping-Bar-34219/204168182>

Chop saw or circular saw

Drill and driver. Drill bits and driver bits

Cordless staple gun w/ stainless steel staples

Stainless steel staples - <https://www.homedepot.com/p/Grip-Rite-1-1-4-in-x-18-Gauge-316-Stainless-Steel-L-Shape-Narrow-Staples-500-Pack-MAXB64911/205309479>

3” Stainless steel screws to set rails to posts (supplied by us)

Advil and bandaids

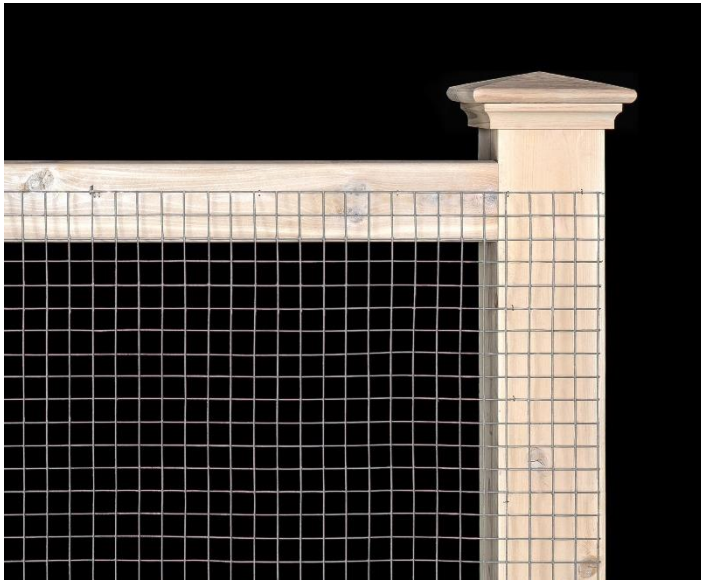
Tips

If the terrain is not level, it is always best to work down hill

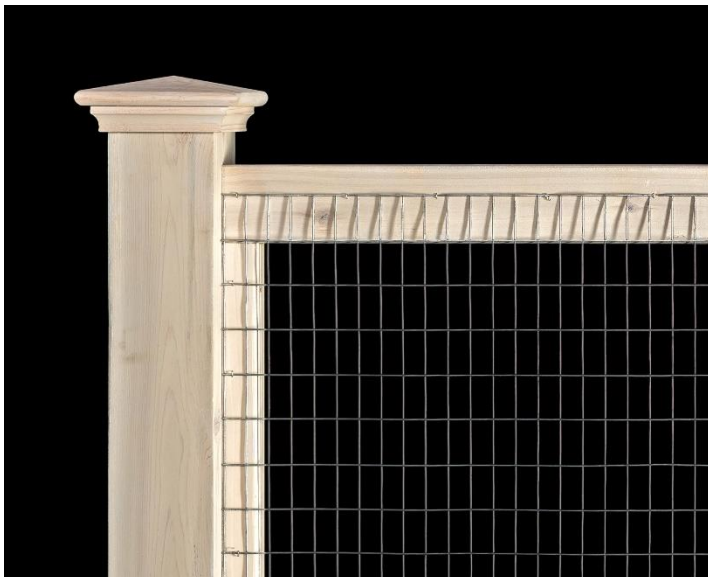
As a general rule, do not use concrete to set the posts. Concrete tends to frost heave and make the post uneven over time. However, if you hit an unmovable rock or root, you will need to cut the post and set it with concrete

The soil that you pull out of a hole is typically the soil that goes back into the hole, tamped tightly, around the post. However, it is OK to mix in some gravel or sand with the soil to help improve drainage around the post

Types of Wood & Wire



Butted – wire runs over the back of the post



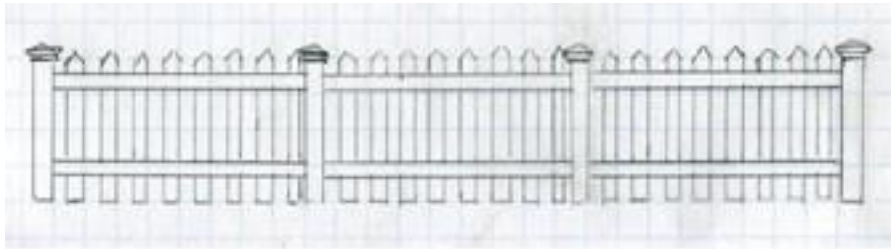
Cleated – Wire is cut to fit between the posts



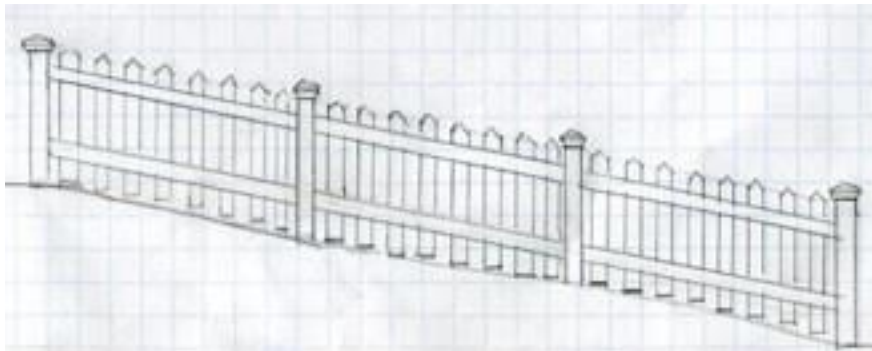
Sandwiched – 1 x cedar boards on the outside of the fence

Types of Fence Installations

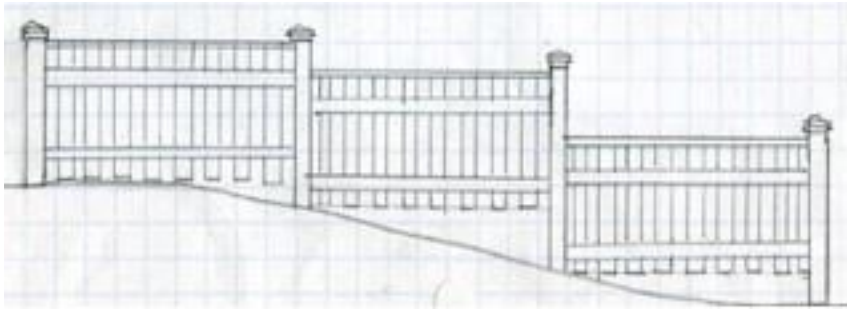
Level fence – the ground is generally level and thus the top of the fence is level



Racked – follows a sloped terrain and the top of the fence is not always level



Stepped fence – steps up or down on a sloped terrain and the top of the fence is always level



Level Wood & Wire Installation

This is the most common installation. With a level wood and wire fence the posts and pickets are vertically plumb and horizontally level and the backing rails horizontally level.

Tightly string a line about 5" above the ground for each fence line using landscape string and wood stakes. Each post will be installed 1" off of this line.

Set the corner posts first, gate posts second and in-line posts last. Gate posts should have $\frac{3}{4}$ " to 1" of "play" on each for the hardware.

Determine how high you want the top of the posts to be and dig your first hole to the proper depth. Put the dirt on a tarp.

Drop your first post in the hole and slowly backfill and tamp. Use a standard level on two adjacent sides of the post to make sure the post is plumb. Continue checking for level as you backfill the hole.

Rails

For the **Butted** fence, the inside face of the rails will be on the inside so the wire can run over them and the posts. For **Cleated** the rails should be centered on the inside face of the posts. For **Sandwiched** the rails should be 1" in on the inside face of the posts.

The top of the top rail should be 2" below a beveled post and 2" below the bottom of a decorative post cap trim. The bottom rails should be 2" +/- above the ground. Do not push flush to ground as it will rot faster. Rails are cut to length with a chop or circular saw and attached to the posts with 3" SS screws. Pre-drill and countersink all holes.

Cleats

If you have the **Cleated** or **Sandwiched** wood and wire, cut the cleats to length between the top and bottom rails, countersink and screw to post.

Wire

For the **Butted** fence, the wire run in one long run on each fence run. For the **Cleated** and **Sandwiched**, the wire is cut to fit between the posts.

If you are trenching the wire into the ground, now is the time to dig the trench. If you have strapping teenagers living at home, get them to do the trenching.

Attach wire with staple cut and stainless-steel staples.

Sandwiched Fence

If you have this style of fence, cut the 1 x cedar stock to fit on the outside of the fence to mirror the rails and cleats.

Diagonal Fence

If you have this style of fence, cut the diagonal rails to fit. Miter cut and pre-drill for screws

Gates

Attach the hardware to the gate.

Attach the wire to the gate scribing around the hardware.

Hang gate. Yes, installing gate hardware is a pain in the arse.

Racked Fence Installation –With a racked fence the posts and the pickets are always vertically plumb and the top and bottom rails follow the slope of the ground. Many jobs are a combination of level and racked.

Tips:

- Try to keep the rails in an even downhill line.
- You will need to cut the rail ends at an angle where they meet the posts.

Stepped Fence Installation - This type of installation can be done when the grade slopes and you want the top of the fence to always be horizontally level.

Tips:

- Start high and work downhill.
- Try to make the steps as even as possible on each fence line.

Finale'

- Admire your work, have an alcoholic beverage, and plant vegetables.

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