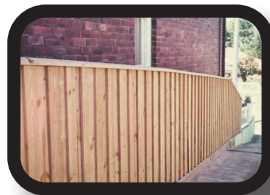




## DIY Fence Guide

**Planning your Project**  
**Easy Step by Step Guide**  
**Simple Illustrations**  
**Maintainence**



The specifications contained within this brochure are for guideline purposes only. For further information contact your local shire council.

By following a straight forward programme you can build an attractive and long lasting fence with the minimum of effort and using only a few basic wood-working tools.

Tanalised® timber is the ideal material for all garden structures. Strong yet light and easy to handle it is pressure treated with either Tanalith® or Vacsol® wood preservative to give it life time durability.

# Planning your Project

## General Hints:

This guide is intended for a maximum fence height of 1.8m.

When you have planned your fence it is advisable to consult your local council to ensure the structure conforms to local government regulations. Refer to local government regulations for requirements regarding boundary fences.

In many areas there is legislation in place to ensure that the costs of a dividing fence are shared between neighbours.

You should engage a surveyor to locate the boundary to allow for the proper alignment of the fence and to ensure that the proposed fence does not encroach on neighbouring properties

It is also important to make sure that the fence does not interfere with existing drainage, plumbing or electricity services.

## Timber Selection Guide:

Hazard Class	Typical Uses
<b>H3</b> Outside, above ground	Decking, fencing, cladding, fascia, window joinery, exterior structural timber (above ground), engineered wood products
<b>H4</b> Outside, in ground	Fencing, pergolas, landscaping timbers, posts, greenhouses, non structural retaining walls less than 1m high
<b>H5</b> Outside, in ground or fresh water	Structural retaining walls, building poles, house stumps, cooling tower infill, pilings in fresh water or critical applications
<b>H6</b> Marine waters	Boat hulls, marine piles, jetty cross-bracing, landing steps, sea walls



### ✓ Tools checklist:

- ☐ Tape measure, Square, Pencil
- ☐ Hammer and Chisel
- ☐ Spirit level, plumb bob
- ☐ String line, String level
- ☐ Crowbar and Shovel
- ☐ Circular saw or Hand saw
- ☐ Power drill with bits
- ☐ 12mm masonry bit
- ☐ Spanner for 12mm bolts/nuts
- ☐ Endseal preservative
- ☐ Galvanised fasteners

Hazard Class Selection Guide AS1604.

## Before you Start:

- Mark out the location of the fence accurately.
- For fences on boundaries be sure you know the exact position of your property's boundaries. If in doubt consult your local council and or engage a surveyor to locate the boundary for you.
- Once pegged out it is a good idea to reach agreement with your neighbour that its location is accurate.
- It is also a good idea to reach agreement with your neighbour on the style of fence to be built.
- Be cautious of boxed heart posts. If possible, select posts that are heart free or have a maximum allowance of 20% heartwood in the cross section.
- Once you commence building the fence remember the old adage – "Measure twice, cut once".

## Notes:

This guide assumes a wind classification of N2 which is a common classification for dense residential areas.

You should engage a registered civil/ structural engineer to confirm the wind classification for your individual site.

This guide has been developed for a clay site having the following conservative soil parameters:

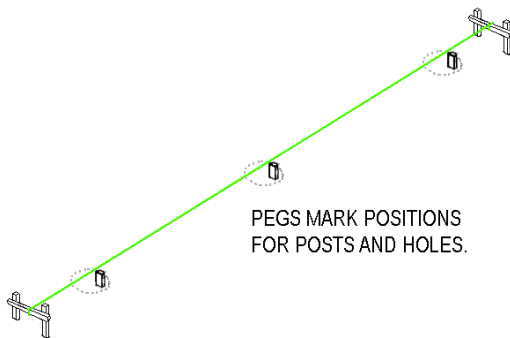
- Friction Angle 25 degrees
- Unit Weight 18kN per cubic metre
- Cohesion 5kPa

As all sites are not the same you should engage a geotechnical engineer to confirm the above parameters and where they are different you should engage a registered civil/structural engineer to design your footings for the appropriate wind and soil conditions.

# Easy Step by Step Guide

## Setting out the fence:

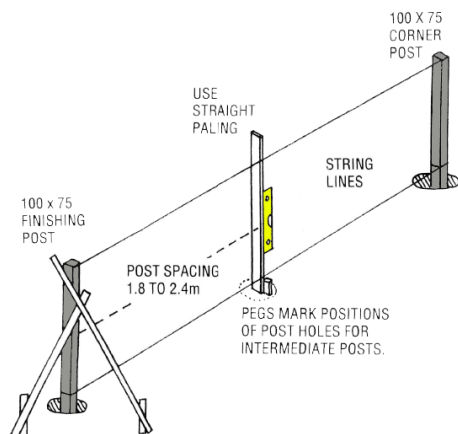
- Mark out the line of the fence by driving pegs at the positions for the corner posts and finishing posts.
- Run tight string lines from the set pegs making sure they are free of any obstruction.



- It is important at this point to check that the fence will stand completely within the surveyed boundary of the property.
- Dig post holes and set corner and finishing posts. Make sure they are vertical by checking with a builder's level on the front and sides of each post. Brace with temporary supports.
- Run tight string lines from faces of posts at top and close to bottom as practical.

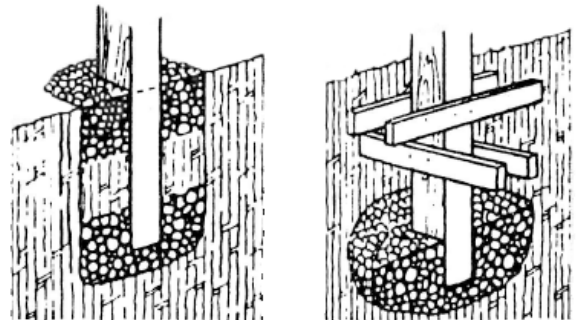
## Standing the posts:

- Mark out the position of intermediate posts by measuring and marking post position with straight edge held against string-lines. See sketch 1.



- Post spacing varies from 1.8m to 2.4m, usually 2.4m. If the fence length is not exactly divisible by selected spacing, make the final panel shorter. Alternatively, equalize the difference over the last 2 or 3 panels.

- Square up the intermediate posts by lining up with string lines and builders level.
- Correct post height can be fixed by measuring from top string line. Trim tops as shown and back-fill in accordance with post setting details below.
- Add cross cleats for posts wherever high resistance to over-turning is required, such as gate posts. see figure 2.



- Areas outside of an N2 wind classification are outside the scope of this guide. Prior to starting work, seek further advice from a registered engineer to determine the wind classification for your area.

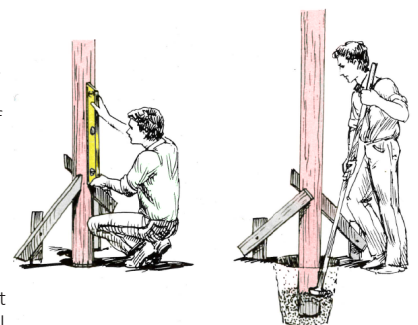
## Setting Posts:

First establish post spacing and embedment depth. Then mark out and dig the holes for the uprights.

Hole Diameters:  
Up to 250mm posts-  
dig 450mm diameter holes.

Dig post holes to a depth of  
900mm.

Set posts as shown using  
concrete. The posts should  
be stood and temporarily  
braced before setting.  
Check the height, alignment  
using string lines and a level.

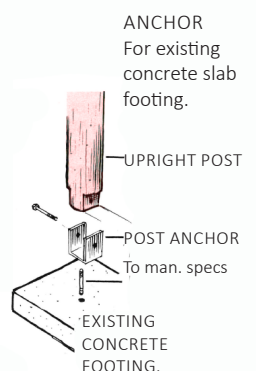
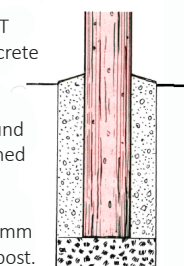


CONCRETE EMBEDMENT  
Use minimum 25mPa concrete  
for concrete footings

Carry concrete above ground  
water level and angle to shed  
water runoff.

Dig Post holes at least 200mm  
greater in width than the post.

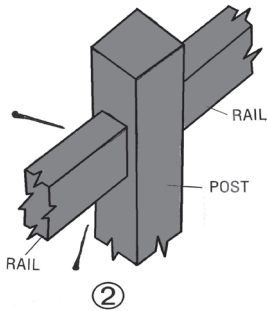
Dig 100mm over deep and  
layer with 100mm of coarse  
hard fill for drainage.



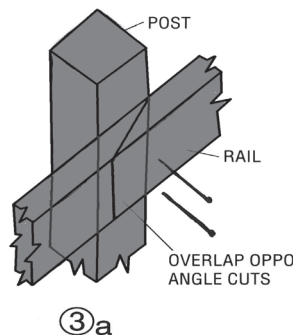
# Easy Step by Step Guide

## Fixing the rails:

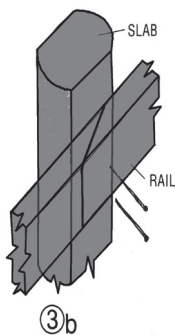
- There are two common methods of rail fixing. A) This type is 75mm x 50mm in section and fixed between the posts by skew nailing with 100mm galvanized flat head nails. See sketch 2.



- B) This system uses rails 100mm x 38mm in section and is nailed to the faces of the posts with 100mm flat head nails. See sketch 3a.



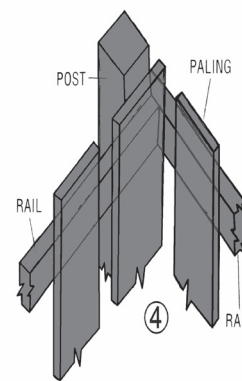
- Slabs may be used as an alternative to posts. See sketch 3b.



- For fences up to 1.2m high use two rails. For fences higher than 1.2m use three rails. If a third rail is being used centre between bottom and top rail.
- Set top of top rail 150mm below top of post. Set bottom rail 150mm above ground level. As an aid to correct location of rails whilst nailing a locating block cut from off-cuts can be nailed in position and removed on completion.
- Always treat cut ends and drill holes with a suitable end seal preservative such as Tanalised® Ecosol or Tanalised® Enseal.

## Fixing the palings:

- Palings are nailed with 100mm galvanized jolt head nails.
- Set the palings to a string line tacked to every post top.
- Keep the palings vertical as they are nailed. Check with builder's level or plumb bob.
- If palings are to be terminated level with the top rail a capping rail could be used to protect the end grains from exposure to weather. See sketch 4.



## Maintaining your Fence:

- All fixings should be checked and tightened where necessary once or twice a year.
- Loose or broken palings should be fixed or replaced.
- Fences should be cleaned on a regular basis, either by simply brushing the fence using a long bristled broom ensuring the gaps between the palings are also cleaned, or by using a pressure washer for a thorough clean.



- Your deck will benefit from an annual treatment of quality decking oil such as Tanacare® Timbercoat, to protect it.

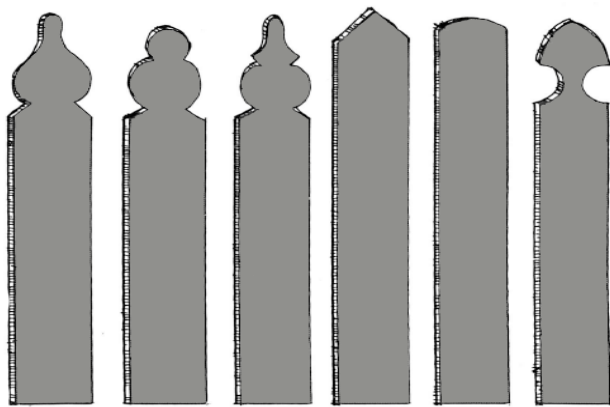


# Common Styles and Arrangements

## Choosing your Style

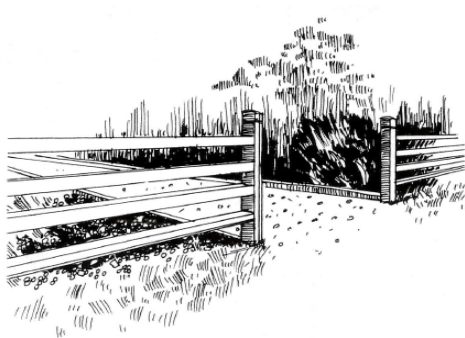
- There are many variations of both paling arrangement and picket shapes possible for your fence.
- This leaflet illustrates a few of the most popular.

## Common Picket Shapes:

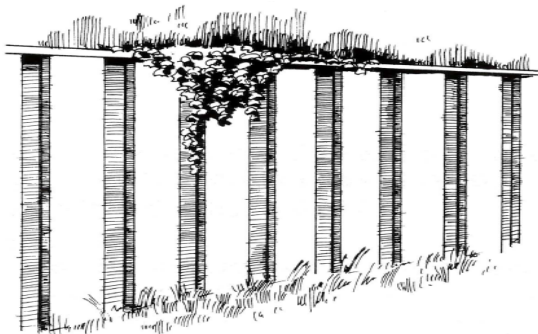


## Common Paling Arrangements:

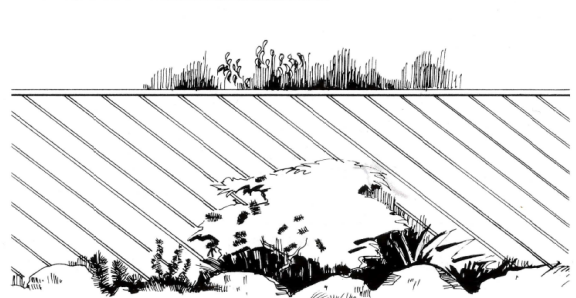
### Post and Rail



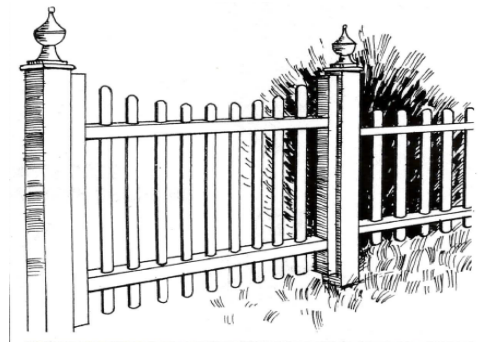
### Vertical Board



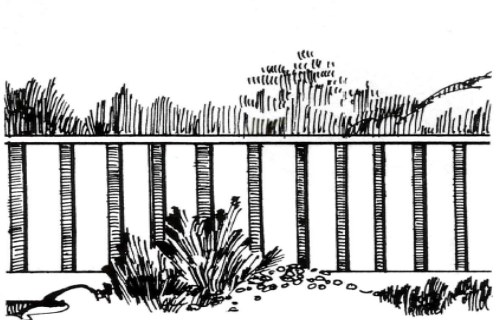
## Angled Corral



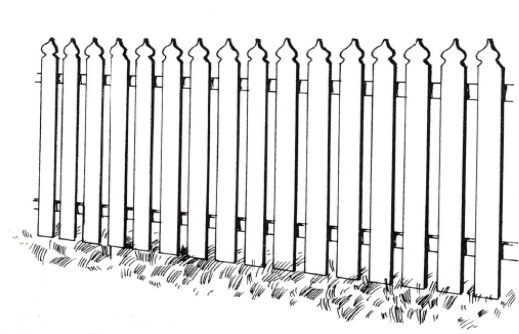
## Dowel



## Single Paling



## Picket



for more DIY projects visit us online or in store at  
**[www.ahfencingtimber.com.au](http://www.ahfencingtimber.com.au)**



## VICTORIA

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## Safety Instructions:

Always refer to product safety data sheets for full health and safety instructions



Always wear gloves when handling treated timber.



Always wear dust mask and goggles when handling treated timber.



Wash work clothing regularly and separately.



Treated timber should not come in contact with drinking water.



Do not use treated timber for cooking fuel.



Don't use treated sawdust or shavings for animal litter.



Always Dispose of treated waste in an approved landfill.



Do not burn treated timber.



Always wash your hands before eating, smoking or going to the toilet.

## Disclaimer:

These specifications are for guideline purposes only. As conditions vary from one site to another it is strongly recommended that you consult with a registered consulting engineer and your local shire council. These plans have been checked and approved (at the time of printing) by Civil & Structural consulting engineers Roy B Hoskins & Associates of QLD 4060, to be technically accurate and generally designed in accordance with the appropriate Australian Standards. As the Australian standards, local, state and national laws are subject to change, please check with your local authorities prior to starting construction.