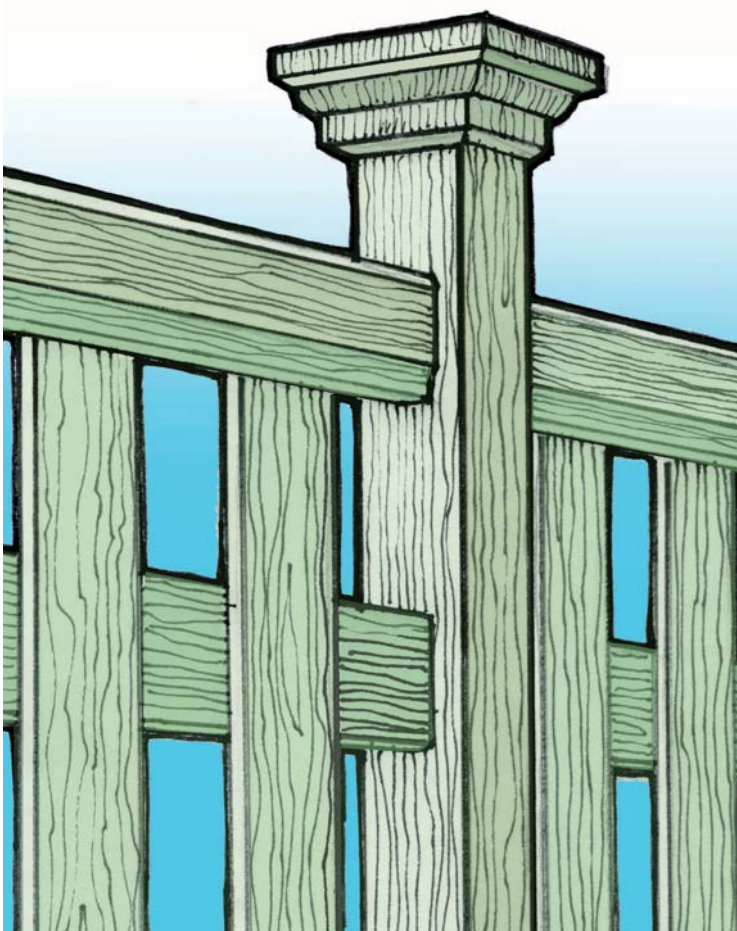
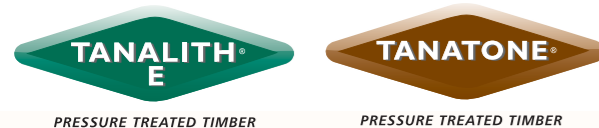


ROSE BANK Sawmill

HOW TO BUILD A TIMBER FENCE



Timber fencing can provide an attractive, functional and long lasting feature that blends in naturally with your home. And because timber is easy to work installation of a fence can be a relatively simple DIY project.

Rose Bank Sawmill offer a wide range of fencing components that are manufactured from quality timbers with a built-in Tanalith® E preservative protection that will ensure they have a long and low maintenance service life. This guide will help you plan, design and carry out your fencing project to provide a professional and attractive result.



THE RIGHT TOOLS FOR THE JOB

Having the correct tools to carry out the job always helps. For a typical fencing project you may need some or all of the following tools.

- Spade
- Hammer
- Electric Jig Saw
- Screwdriver
- Retractable Tape Measure
- String Line and Stakes
- Posthole Borer
- Hand Saw
- Electric Drill

TOP TIP
If you do not own all these tools they can usually be hired locally for the duration of your project.

PLANNING AND BUILDING APPROVAL

Building a fence within your property does not generally require planning permission. If it is a boundary fence however, discuss your plans with your neighbour and get their agreement. If a dispute does arise get advice from your local council.

TOP TIP
Before starting check where your fence will be situated and make sure there are no obstructions. Preferably keep surfaces as level as possible.

Before ordering your timbers, accurately measure the length of your fence and calculate how many posts, palings and rails you will need. The following Fence Design section and the Construction Steps will help you here and Rose Bank Sawmill will always advise you where required. The fence designs shown will generally provide a sturdier and longer lasting choice compared with post and panel fences, which can be subject to wind damage.

SAFETY FIRST

Before you start your fencing project consider some of the safety aspects you should always remember when working with timber and undertaking a fencing project.

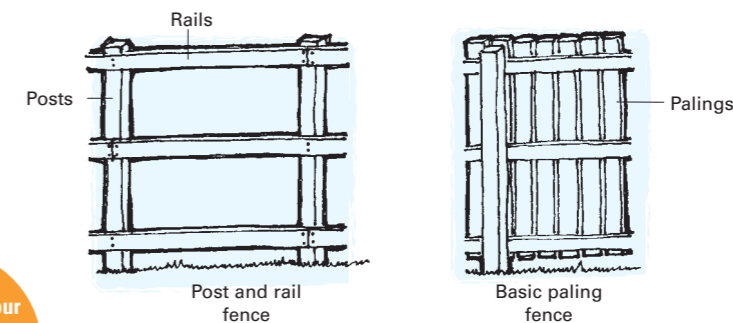
- When digging post holes be careful not to damage any underground pipes or cables.
- Use safety glasses when using power tools and a dust mask when cutting timber.
- When cutting timber, work in a well ventilated area.
- When handling and working with timber wear gloves wherever possible.
- Wash your hands thoroughly after handling timber. Always use good hygiene practices when carrying out DIY projects such as this by washing your hands thoroughly after handling timber, especially before eating and smoking.
- Take care not to burn off-cuts of treated timber. Do not burn treated timber off-cuts in barbecues, cooking stoves or grates – dispose of them safely as refuse.
- During the project keep children away from the work area until the job has been completed and tools have been safely stored away.
- A Consumer Information leaflet for Tanalith® E treated timber which covers its general use is available from the Arch Timber Protection web site - www.archtp.com



FENCE DESIGNS

Post & Rail Fences

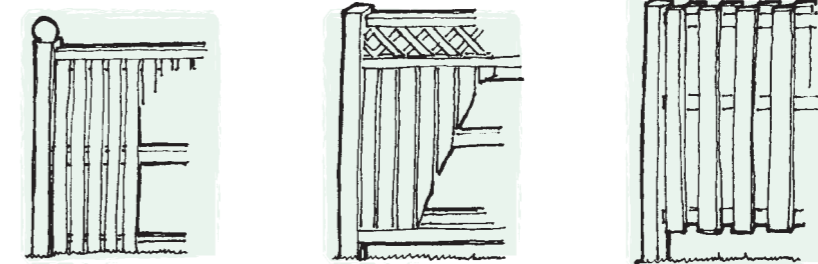
These are the most common and easy to construct. Two or three rows of horizontal rails are connected to upright posts set in the ground at equal intervals. The fence can simply be made from sawn posts and matching rails or alternatively machined posts, rails and palings can provide a more finished design. Post centres should be a maximum of 1800mm or closer for a sturdier result. The number of rails will depend on the required height of your fence.



TOP TIP
Try to position your post centres to match the length of railings you are using.

Paling Fences

Paling fences are versatile and simple to erect and allow many decorative styles to be created. Again posts and rails create the framework and palings are then fixed to the rails to suit. Detailing can then be added - post caps in different designs or fixing a capping rail between the posts can provide an attractive finish. You can add a trellis top or create a 'good neighbour' fence by attaching palings on both sides, slightly overlapping so the same effect is achieved on either side of the fence.



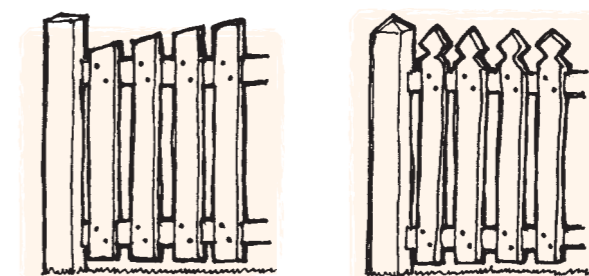
Paling fence with capping rail.

Trellis top fence

Good neighbour fence

Picket Fences

These are usually more decorative fences, lower in height and consisting of posts, two rails and a range of paling designs, usually set further apart. Post distances should be a maximum of 1800mm. Although the majority of picket fences have straight or angled tops to the palings, cut out designs can also be created by use of a jig saw.



Picket fence - angled palings

Picket fence - cut out palings

TOP TIP
Allow spaces between your palings to allow wind to flow through the fence.

THE BEST PROTECTION

ASSURED LONG LIFE AND A CHOICE OF COLOURS

All fencing timbers supplied by Rose Bank Sawmill have a long life assurance. Using only quality timbers that are air dried to ensure a low moisture content, they are then pressure pre-treated in our own on-site treatment facilities. Treated with Tanalith® E, the most advanced and effective wood preservative available, the treated timber has a pleasant pale green colouration that will eventually fade to a mellow honey brown. The timber is totally protected against the risk of decay or insect attack and will have a long and low maintenance service life, either in and out of ground contact. As an alternative Rose Bank Sawmill also offer Tanatone® treated timber – all the preservative benefits of Tanalith® E treated timber but with a rich brown colouration built-in. This brown colour will eventually fade but can be refreshed by brush applied fencing coatings.



Whilst the advice contained in this guide has been produced with proper care, it is offered only with the intention of assisting those interested in home improvement projects. Rose Bank Sawmill does not accept any responsibility for work carried out from this advice.

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FIXING INSTRUCTIONS OVERLEAF

CONSTRUCTING YOUR FENCE . . .

STEP 1 MEASURING

Measure the total length of your fence and mark out its line with a string attached to two timber stakes driven into the ground. The string should indicate the position of the front of the posts. Hammer stakes into the ground at the position of your main support posts, calculating a regular distance between each with a retractable tape measure.

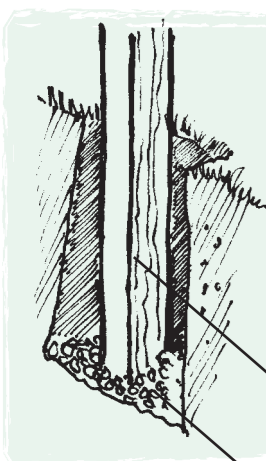
The distance will depend upon the type of fence you are building. As a guide standard post spacing is 1800mm maximum between post centres or less if a sturdier structure is required.



TOP TIP
Chalk or mark around the post positions before the stakes are removed.

STEP 2 DIGGING

Using a spade or posthole borer, dig post holes to suit the length of the posts. The posts should be fixed with a minimum of 600mm into the ground. The holes should be wider at their base than at the top with a diameter approximately three times the width of the posts.



Position the posts into the holes. For most types of fences, 100mm x 75mm posts are adequate, but end and corner posts and posts designed in to accommodate a gate should be 100mm x 100mm.

TOP TIP
Line the base of each hole with a layer of pea shingle or gravel to allow good drainage.

If possible use an uncut end of the post in ground contact.

Pea shingle should line the base of each post hole.

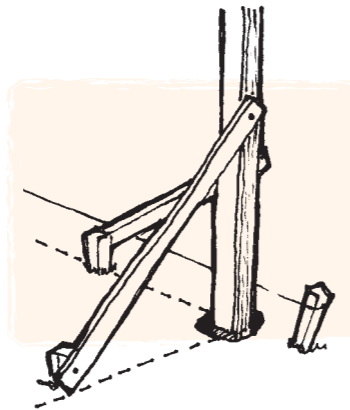
STEP 3 THE END POSTS

The end posts are a key part of your fence. Brace the end posts in place with battens or timber off-cuts. Tack the nails in lightly on these bracing for easy removal later on.

Check that the posts are vertical (both sides) with a spirit level. Check that the top of the posts are the correct height above ground level. Posts that are too

high may be trimmed to size later.

TOP TIP
Any cuts or notching made to the timbers during the fencing project must be treated with Ensele brush-on end preservative to maintain the integrity of the preservative treatment. Ensele is available from Rose Bank Sawmill.

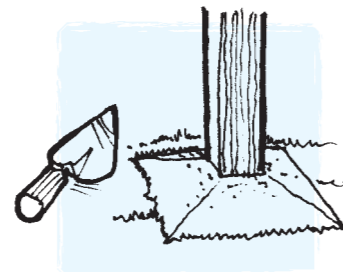


Before concreting in, do a final check that the posts are vertical and square in the hole.

STEP 4 CONCRETING

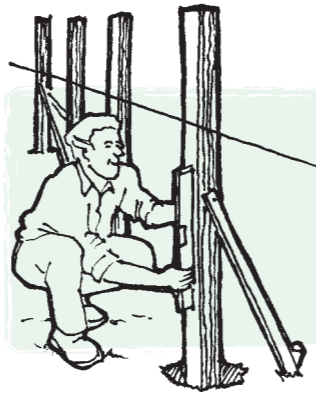
To concrete the posts in position use either a dry pre-mixed concrete or a mix of 1 part cement to 6 parts sand/gravel mix. Keep the mix as stiff as possible and rod it tightly into the holes using a timber stake to push the mix down. Make sure that any air pockets are removed.

Before the concrete starts to set make sure the posts are vertically aligned and are the same height. Leave the posts for anything between two days to a week for the concrete to fully set.



TOP TIP
With a trowel slope the top of the concrete away from the posts for good drainage.

STEP 5 INTERMEDIATE POSTS

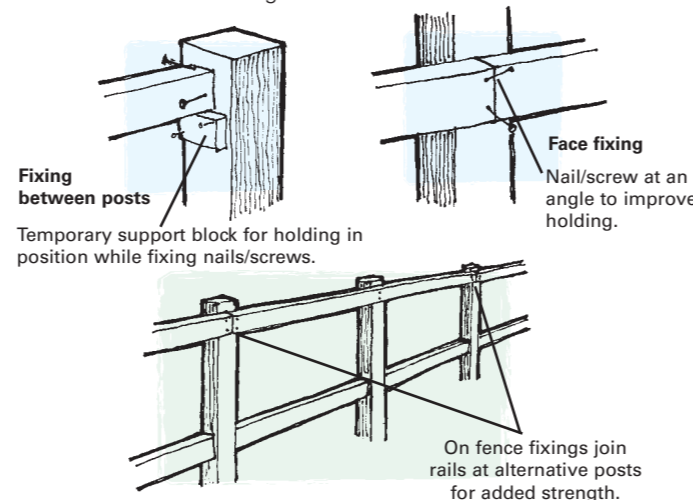


Run a string line about 700mm above the ground, spaced 20mm off your end posts. Place your intermediate posts into their holes and check for alignment by measuring 20mm off the string line. Check that the posts are vertical, square-on, in line and brace in place as the end posts. Re-check alignments and heights before concreting in and leaving to set.

STEP 6 RAILINGS

The fence height will dictate how many rails you need. Rails are usually 100mm x 50mm for 1800mm post spacings. As a rule, fences up to 1200mm in height will require two rails, while fences over this height will require at least three. Your rails can be attached to your posts in two ways, either face fixed to posts or cut to fit between the posts. In both cases the fixings should be made using high quality galvanised nails or screws, both available from Rose Bank Sawmill.

It is usual to fix the bottom rail a maximum of 150mm above the ground. Use a string line and spirit level to ensure correct rail alignment.



Fixing between posts
Temporary support block for holding in position while fixing nails/screws.

Face fixing
Nail/screw at an angle to improve holding.

On fence fixings join rails at alternative posts for added strength.



STEP 7 PALINGS

Set a string line between the two end posts to line up with the top of your palings. If the fence runs up or down hill, line up the string line with the upper point of each paling. Calculate the spacing required for the palings between the posts to achieve a regular design.

Fix the palings to the rails using high quality galvanised flat head nails or screws, both available from Rose Bank Sawmill. Use two nails/screws to attach the palings onto each rail, driving the nails/screws in at different angles to help prevent lifting. Use a spirit level to check the palings are kept vertical.

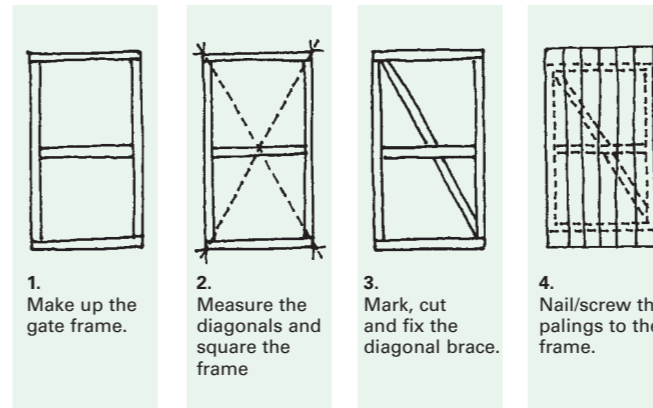
TOP TIP
Once you have calculated the spacing between each paling make an off-cut of timber to the required size to use as a regular and consistent spacer guide.

STEP 8 GATES

If a gate is required in your run of fencing the posts should be a minimum of 100mm x 100mm and set at a minimum of 900mm apart to allow decent access.

To establish the gate width measure between the two posts and deduct 25mm to allow a 12mm clearance at each side.

TOP TIP
Extending your gate posts above the height of the fence to incorporate a spreader timber will keep the gate posts rigid, helping to eliminate the possibility of the gate jamming or sagging.



CONSTRUCTING YOUR FENCE . . .

STEP 8 GATES continued

On even ground make up the rectangular frame of the gate from 75mm x 50mm timbers including a central, horizontal timber. To square the frame measure the two opposing diagonals of the gate frame and adjust until they are equal. This will ensure right angles in the frame. Fix the timbers with high quality galvanised nails or screws. To brace the frame lay a piece of 75mm x 50mm timber diagonally from corner to corner on the frame. Mark, cut and fix in place with galvanised nails/screws.

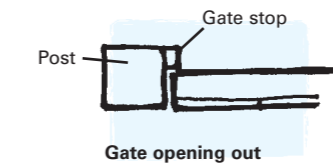
Cut palings to match your fence design and fix to the gate frame using flat head galvanised nails or screws. Again try to space the palings to match the spacing on your fence design.

To fix the gate in place between the two posts sit the gate on packers so that it is the required distance off the ground. Place wedges or packers at the sides of the gate so that the gaps between the gate and posts are even and the gate is 'jammed' in position.

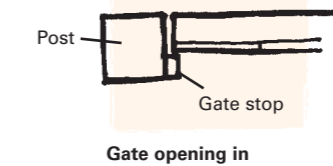


Place a hinge on each of the three horizontal members. If the gate is opening inwards, then the hinges will be fixed to the inside of the gate. If the gate is opening outwards, the hinges will be fixed to the outside of the gate, to the palings and in line with the horizontal members.

Screw the hinges into position and remove the packing/support material. Fit the gate latch, usually about halfway up the gate or at a reachable height if access from the outside is required.



Gate opening out



Gate opening in

TOP TIP
Fix a 25mm thick length of timber to the gate post opposite to the hinges that will act as a gate stop and help prevent damage to the hinges in windy conditions or from slamming.

READY & WAITING AT ROSE BANK SAWMILL

Rose Bank Sawmill has a wide range of fencing timbers and components ready treated and waiting for your next project. We also carry stocks of nails, screws and fixings.

<p>Site Pegs – Pointed and Treated</p> <p>Square – 50mm x 50mm, 300mm – 600mm long.</p>	<p>Gates – Treated Timber, 5 bar, tapered top rail</p> <p>3660mm, 3353mm, 3050mm, 2744mm, 2440mm, 2134mm, 1830mm, 1525mm, 1220mm, 915mm.</p>
<p>Square Posts – Pointed and Treated</p> <p>100 mm x 100mm – 3.0m, 2.4m, 1.8m.</p> <p>100mm x 75mm – 2.4m, 2.1m, 1.8m, 1.65m, 1.5m.</p> <p>75mm x 75mm – 2.4m, 2.1m, 1.8m, 1.65m, 1.5m, 1.35m.</p>	<p>Galvanised Fencing Wire</p> <p>Stock Net</p> <p>HT8/80/15 x 100m, C8/80/15 x 50m.</p> <p>Barbed Wire - Titan x 200m.</p> <p>Plain Wire – H/T x 410m.</p> <p>Rabbit Netting – 1050mm x 50m.</p>
<p>Rails & Boards – Treated</p> <p>150mm x 47mm x 3.6m.</p> <p>150mm x 22mm x 3.6m.</p> <p>100mm x 47mm x 3.6m.</p> <p>100mm x 38mm x 3.6m.</p> <p>100mm x 22mm x 3.6m.</p> <p>88mm x 32mm x 3.6m.</p> <p>75mm x 47mm x 3.6m.</p> <p>75mm x 22mm x 3.6m.</p> <p>50mm x 47mm x 3.6m.</p> <p>50mm x 22mm x 3.6m.</p>	<p>Galvanised Gate Fittings</p> <p>600mm adjustable hinge set.</p> <p>600mm standard hinge set.</p> <p>Spring fastener set.</p> <p>Double gate fastener set.</p> <p>Self locking gate catch set.</p> <p>Central closing gate catch.</p> <p>450mm bands and hooks (pair).</p> <p>Throw over loop.</p> <p>Hook to bolt.</p> <p>Hook to drive.</p> <p>Adjustable gate fitting.</p> <p>125mm double strap band.</p> <p>600mm double strap band.</p> <p>Safety gate eye and hook.</p>
<p>Featheredge Boards – Treated</p> <p>Ex 150mm x 22mm x 1.8m.</p>	<p>Nails – Round Galvanised</p> <p>75mm, 100mm, 150mm.</p> <p>Countersunk/Landscaping Screws</p>