

# DIY FENCE GUIDE

Planning your Project | Simple Illustrations | Hints

Easy Step  
by Step  
Guide

**TIMBERLINK. MADE OF TASMANIA.**

**TIMBER** **LINK**  
AUSTRALIA

# DIY Fence Guide



## Timberlink Fencing Range

Our Bell Bay mill, using Tasmanian Plantation Pine, makes everything you need to build a boundary fence; Timberlink Palings, Timberlink Rails, Timberlink Plinths and Timberlink Fence Posts.

For front garden fence, we cut a variety of different shaped pickets from the more contemporary round profile, to the traditional Windsor.

Download a copy of our product catalogue at [madeoftasmania.com.au](http://madeoftasmania.com.au) to see our full range.

## 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.

### 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

# Planning Your Project



## 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:

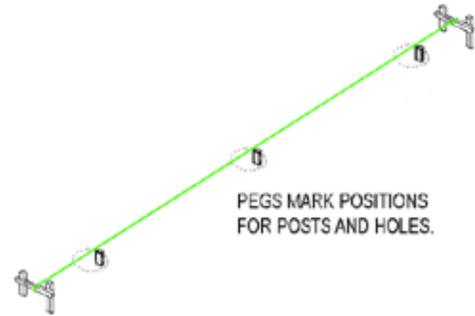
- > Friction Angle 25 degrees
- > Unit Weight 18kN per cubic metre
- > Cohesion 5kPa

As all sites are not the same you should engage a geotechnical engineer to confirm the above parameters. 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 in the positions of the corner posts and finishing posts.
- > Run tight string lines from the set pegs making sure they are free of any obstruction.

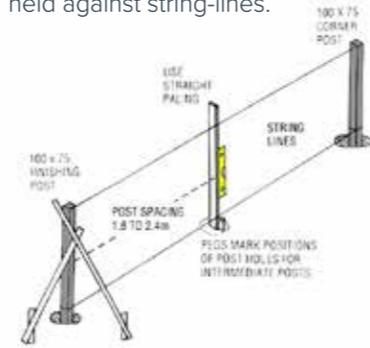


- > It is important at this point to check that the fence will stand completely within the surveyed boundary of the property.
- > Dig post holes and set corner and finishing posts. Make sure they are vertical by checking with a builder's level on the front and sides of each post. Brace with temporary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

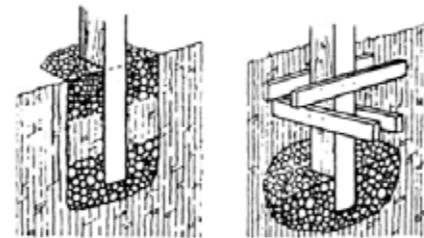


## Standing the posts

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



- > 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 overturning is required, such as gate posts.



- > 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.

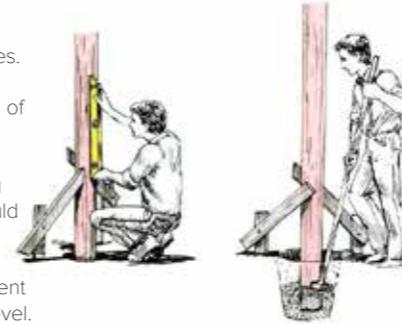
## Setting Posts

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.

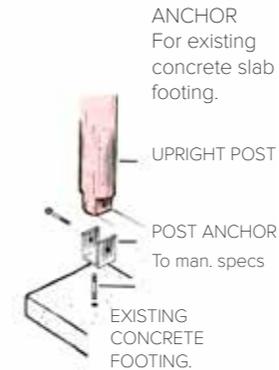
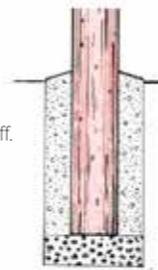


CONCRETE EMBEDMENT  
Use minimum 25mPa concrete for concrete footings

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

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

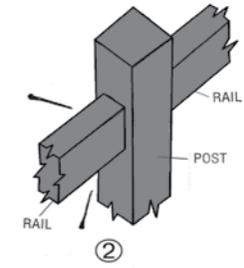
Dig 100mm over deep and layer with 100mm of coarse hard fill for drainage.



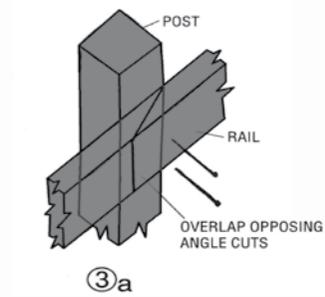
## Fixing the rails

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.

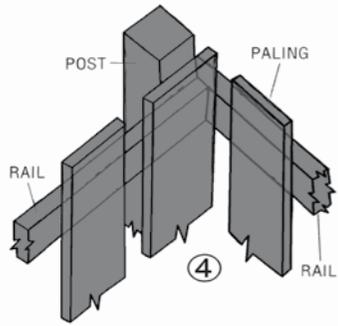


- > For fences up to 1.2m high, use two rails. For fences higher than 1.2m use three rails. If a third rail is being used centre between bottom and top rail.
- > Set top of top rail 150mm below top of post. Set bottom rail 150mm above ground level. As an aid to correct location of rails whilst nailing 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® Ecoseal or Tanalised® Enseal.

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## 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 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.



## Common Styles and Arrangements

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

### Common picket shapes

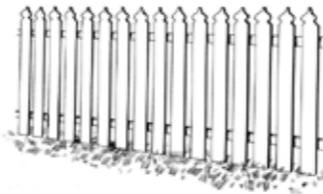


### Common paling arrangements

#### Post and Rail



#### Picket



#### Angled Corral



#### Single Paling



For more DIY projects visit us at [madeoftasmania.com.au](http://madeoftasmania.com.au)

## Safety and Handling

When handling and cutting any timbers it is advisable to wear dust masks, goggles and gloves. **Do not burn any treated timber.** Safety Data Sheets (SDSs) are available from [timberlinkaustralia.com.au](http://timberlinkaustralia.com.au)

## Waste Disposal

Timberlink Green products are not classified hazardous by Safe Work Australia. However, we recommend that you check with your local authority to determine the correct disposal methods.

Treated timber products should never be used for composting or animal bedding and should never be burned.

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

These can be downloaded from [timberlinkaustralia.com.au/safety-data-sheets](http://timberlinkaustralia.com.au/safety-data-sheets)

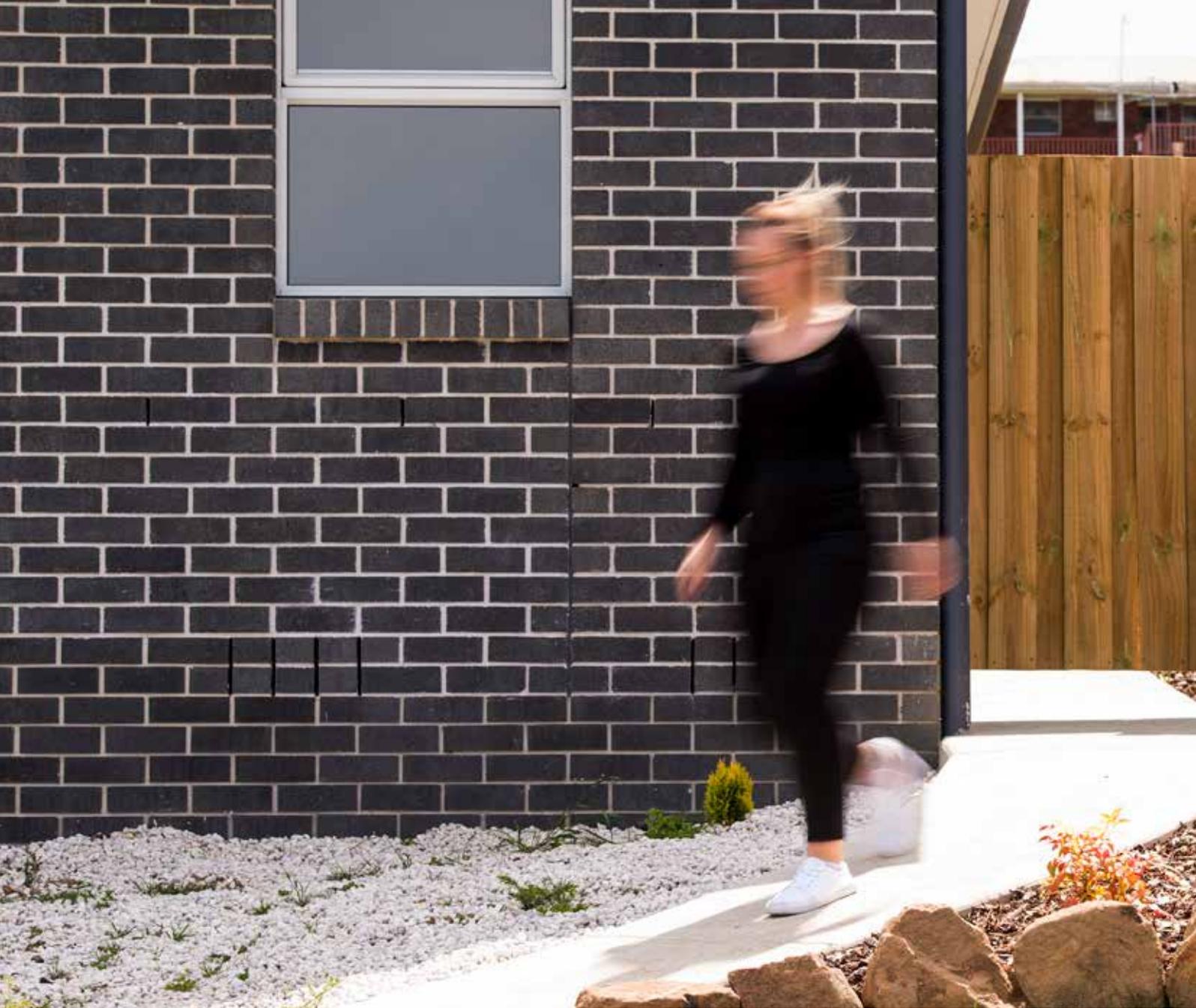


## Disclaimer:

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.

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