How to Install Vinyl Privacy Fencing and Gates

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Installing a vinyl privacy fence is a straightforward process when you follow the proper steps. Below is a complete guide to help you achieve a professional-looking result.

Tools Needed

- Tape measure

- Level

- Marking paint

- Tamping/digging bar

- Utility string

- Circular saw (with safety glasses)

- Drill with Phillips and hex driver bits

- Post hole digger

- Powered auger with 8-inch diameter bit (recommended for larger jobs)

Before You Begin

- **Always call 811 before you dig.** Follow the 5 steps for safe digging.

- Locate your **property markers**.

- Check HOA requirements for setbacks.

- Follow all local building codes and regulations.

Step 1: Establish Your Fence Line

1. Locate and mark your end or corner posts.

2. Run a string line tightly between the marked points.
   This string will serve as your fence line reference.

Step 2: Dig and Set Corner Posts

1. Dig holes for the end or corner posts.

    ◦ Minimum **8-inch diameter**.

    ◦ Depth must extend **below the frost line** in your area.

2. Place the post in the hole.

3. Add **40–60 pounds of concrete** per hole.

    ◦ You may pre-mix or dry pack.

4. Plumb the post in both directions using a level.

Once both posts are set, tie your string line to them. This re-establishes your straight fence line.

Step 3: Locate Line Posts

1. Insert a bottom rail into a corner post and pull outward until it stops at the retention tabs. The end of the rail marks the location of the next post.

2. To quickly mark multiple posts:

    ◦ Lay rails on the ground with a **2-inch gap** between them.

    ◦ The center of the 2-inch gap marks the post location.

Post Centers:

- 6-foot panels = **72 inches**

- 8-foot panels = **96 inches**

Always double-check measurements as you go.

Step 4: Install Fence Panels

1. Place line posts in their holes.

2. Insert the bottom rail into the first post.

3. Insert the top rail into the beginning post.

4. Install a **U-channel** on the first picket.

5. Slide the picket into the rails.

6. Continue installing pickets, ensuring tongue-and-groove connections are tight.

7. Both end pickets should have a U-channel facing the post.

What is a U-Channel?
A trim piece that:

- Covers small gaps between post and picket

- Finishes the edge of cut pickets

- Provides a clean, professional look

8. Once pickets are installed, insert the top rail into the line post.

9. Plumb the post and add concrete.

10. Add a screw through the top rail inside each post to keep panels secure.

Repeat this process down the fence line.

Note:

- If dry packing concrete, you can level the entire fence after all posts are set.

- If wet mixing concrete, level each section as you go.

Step 5: Installing the Final Section

1. Measure the distance between the last line post and the corner post.

2. Add **4 inches** to that measurement for rail length.

3. Cut rails using a circular saw.

4. Install bottom rail into both posts.

5. Insert top rail into one post and slide in pickets.

If the final picket does not fit:

- Measure the remaining gap.

- Mark carefully, ensuring correct side is cut (tongue-and-groove alignment matters).

- Cut full length using a straight edge.

- Cover cut edge with U-channel.

- Install into place.

- Secure top rail to both posts.

Step 6: Installing a Gate

1. Install the first gate post (with internal metal I-beam).

2. Plumb carefully while adding and tamping concrete.

3. Set second gate post **2 inches wider** than gate width.

Example:

- Gate width: 62½"

- Post spacing (inside to inside): 64½"

4. Attach hinges to gate, aligned with top and bottom rails.

5. Position gate between posts.

6. Align gate rails with adjacent fence panels.

7. Secure hinges to posts.

8. Adjust hinges as needed before concrete sets.

9. Install latch on opposite post.

10. Close gate, center strike in latch, and secure.

Ensure the gate swings freely and aligns properly.

Step 7: Final Leveling and Finishing

- Level posts the same day if dry packed.

- Adjust posts in and out while checking plumb.

- Raise or lower posts to ensure even height.

- Take your time—this step ensures a professional finish.

Once satisfied:

- Install post caps.

- Hose off debris.

- Add water around posts to begin curing (if dry packed).

You're Finished!

Your vinyl privacy fence is now installed.

If you have any questions during installation, our team is here to help.
Visit **OnlineFenceStore.com** for contact information, blog resources, and additional installation advice.

Thanks for choosing Online Fence Store!