

# RICK'S

CUSTOM FENCING & DECKING

## Solid Style Fence with Steel Posts

a simple guide to a better fence

### Tool Check List

- Marking Pencil
- Hammer
- Phillips Screwdriver

- Tape Measure
- Post Hole Digger
- Power Saw

- String Line
- Level
- Gloves

### Where To Start

Find your property lines accurately by using plot or metal property pins. Wooden stakes may not always be precise. You can obtain plot maps from your builder or local city/county planning departments. If you're unable to locate the property lines, it's advisable to have your lot surveyed to avoid installing your fence on your neighbor's property. **If screws are being used in place of nails then replace all nails in this guide with #8 x 1½" (Star drives).**

## 1. Spacing the Posts Properly

Typically, fence posts should be placed about 8 feet apart. The exact spacing will vary based on the length of each section. Divide the length of your run into 8-foot sections, ensuring not to exceed that length. Keep in mind that you can slightly adjust for accuracy. Since your posts are 3 ½ inches wide:

Example A) For an 80-foot run: Divide 80 by 8, giving you 10 sections at 8 feet on center, with 92 ½ inches between posts.

Example B) For an 82-foot run: Divide 82 by 8, resulting in 10 sections at 8½ feet on center, with 95 inches between posts.

Begin by setting the corner or end posts first. Use a string line to ensure proper alignment of all posts between the corner or end posts. **(Figure 1)** Stretch the string line from each corner or end post. Drive a stake approximately every 8 feet at the precise position where each post hole is to be dug. Take your time to measure and position the posts accurately. The appearance and structural integrity of the entire fence rely on the precise positioning of the posts.

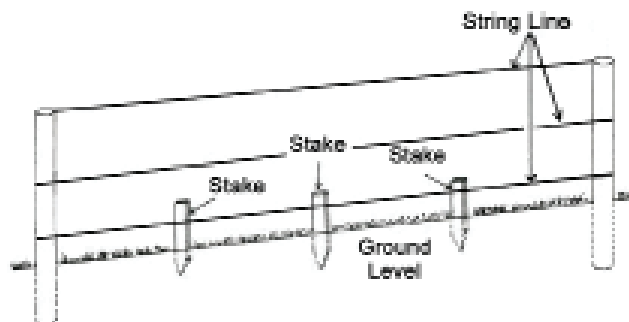


Figure 1

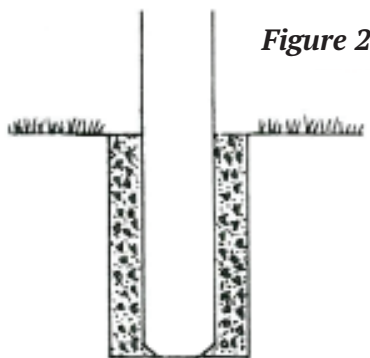


Figure 2

Concrete Footing

## 2. Setting the Steel Fence Posts

All steel fence posts should be set with approximately 2' of post buried in the ground. (Figure 2) Use a 6" or 8" post hole digger or auger. Dig the holes straight to the proper depth and in the correct location. String a line between the corners and the end posts flush with the top. This will help to keep the top of the fence flat. Set corner or end posts 1" to 2" higher than desired height of fence. (This will keep the bottom of the fence boards from sitting on the ground.) Steel tubing posts are typically one foot shorter than fence height.

## 2. Setting the Steel Fence Posts (Cont.)

Pack the posts with concrete, taking care to keep concrete along the sides but not under the posts. "Dry" set all posts, then water down each post several times with a garden hose until the water stops disappearing into concrete. As a rule, posts should be allowed to stand several days and settle firmly into position before the fence is completed. However small sections of the fence can be completed in one day. Just wait until the fence is complete, re-plumb the posts, and then water down the posts. Once posts are watered down, fence should not be worked on for 2-3 days.

## 3. Installation of Fence Clips

Use #4 galvanized box nails 1-1/4" long to secure the 2x4 fir rail to the post bracket. **(Figure 3)** A typical fence lay out with steel posts on post brackets. **(Figure 4)**

Post brackets are generally located 1" down from the post top to the top of the upper post bracket and 47" down from the post top to the bottom of the lower post bracket. (Measurements are based on a 6' fence. Shorter fences will require different spacing.) **(Figure 5)**

A string line is very helpful in setting the post brackets. Anchor at proper height to end post. Stretch tight and anchor to opposite end post. This will keep the rails straight and aligned. **(Figure 6)**

## 4. Installing the Fir Rails

Mark each 2x4 rail while holding it in place between the two posts. Trim the rail accordingly and set in place. Secure with #4 galvanized nails. **(Figure 3)**

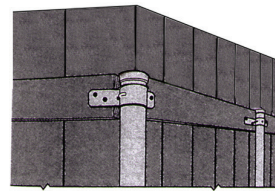


Figure 3

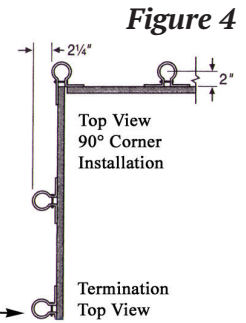


Figure 4

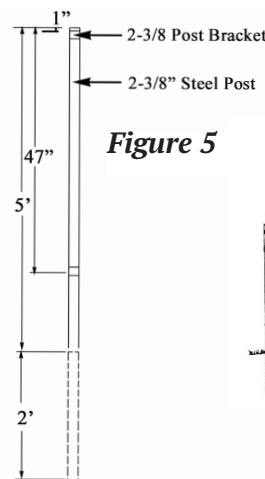


Figure 5

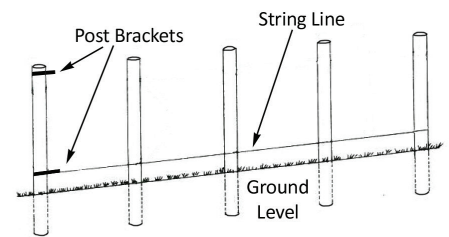


Figure 6

## 5. Installing the Boards (Proper Placement)

Butt the first board against the post then space the rest of the boards evenly with at least 1/4" gap to allow the wind to blow through **(Figure 7)**. Remember, if you use a smaller gap or no gap at all you will need extra boards.

3/4" boards should be nailed to the rail with four #6 galvanized box nails, 1/2" boards should use #5 galvanized nails.

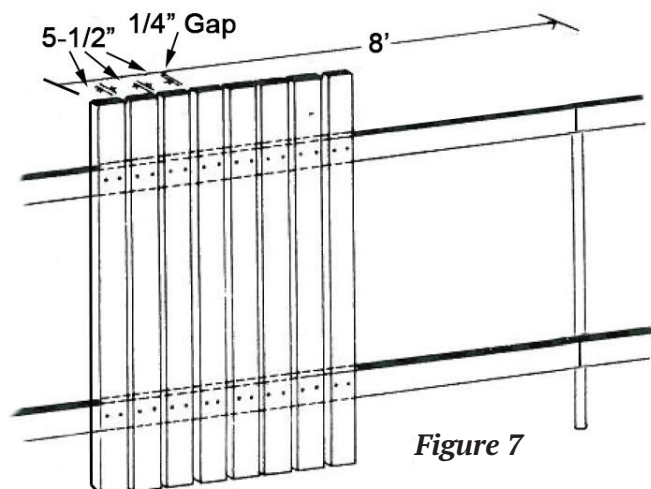


Figure 7