



[www.prowellwoodworks.com](http://www.prowellwoodworks.com)

Box 785 Sebastopol, CA 95473

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## **INSTALLATION GUIDE FOR PROWELL'S FENCELINES**

All Panels arrive fully assembled.

There are two approaches for setting the posts for extended fence-lines:

A) To set the posts once the panels arrive in the sequence of a post, a panel, a post, etc—as described below.

B) To set all your posts beforehand. For extended fencelines, it is normally configured so that the shop has multiple, identical panel widths to facilitate the cut list. If you set your posts to these repetitive dimensions *before* the panels arrive, but are not perfectly accurate, varying perhaps by 1/16", then the panels will not fit. And it is hard to stretch a panel to fit your opening 1/16" wider than the drawings. If you take approach B, you must use a stretcher to insure each and every post is dead-on to the called out dimensions.

Fencelines are provided with plan view drawing, sequencing the installation order by labeling the various panels to correspond to the drawing. Panels arrive marked on the edges with their labeled numbers.

### **For non-gate fencelines:**

Permanently install the first fence post (surfaced 6x6 or 4x4 ) at either the left or right ends of the given fenceline (preferably that end, if any, fixed to a structure). Temporarily set the other post establishing the other end of the fenceline and stake it plumb. Secure a tight stringline between these two end-posts.

### **For fencelines with gate breaks:**

Begin with setting the gate posts to their prescribed setting, using the gate width as a guide. Hinge-side posts are set in concrete, on a 3" bed of pea gravel for drainage. String a line, as above, to establish the fenceline to the corner. Beginning with the first, permanently installed gate-post, measure over the length of the first modular panel.



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Establish the hole for this post and set the panel & post in place for a dry fit, insuring the hole is set the right distance and to the stringline. Remove the post and, if necessary, trim the hole and fill it with approximately 3 inches of pea gravel. Return the post to the hole and set the panel to the approximate desired height on the first permanent post (The panels are secured using 4" x #10 coated 'grabber' screws). Three screws per post set through the pre-drilled holes located on that side of the panel not exposed to the street. An arrow beneath each identifying panel number helps to identify the front-facing side.

Hold the second post plumb while setting a level along the top rail of the panel, marking that level point by scribing a line on the post with an awl or nail (In the event the panels are later removed for access to painters, the scribed mark will make re-setting the panel a simple procedure, whereas a pencil mark will be lost.). Screw the panel to this second post and you have the first section in place. The second post is held plum by the rigidity of the panel . Align the post, moving the post along with its attached panel, to the stringline and insuring that it is plumb to the stringline. Fill the hole two-thirds full with pea gravel--never closer than 8-inches to the top--and the post and panel are now self-supporting. Continue this same procedure down the length of the fenceline to the last section at the far end.

Set a second stringline between end-posts at the desired fence height and fine-tune the settings of each panel (For those with slightly sloping grades, by working from left-to-right and setting the right-side frame board to the rising stringline will insure an evenly stepped pattern)

After checking that all posts are plum, the postholes can be topped with approximately 6-8 inches of concrete and allowed to cure overnight.



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## **Gate Breaks**

When a gate is to be positioned along the run of a continuous fenceline, the two gate posts can be positioned by the use of spreaders. Two 1 x 6's at top and bottom temporarily tacked to the face of the posts. Between the posts and screwed to the inside of the 1 x 6 spreaders are two blocks set to allow the rough opening width shown on the drawings.

## **POST SETTING**

\* Postholes and their proper setting is covered thoroughly on the web site, linked as 'Setting Your Posts' under the Site Map and along the left-margin of the Home Page. Complete with diagrams, sketches, and text. It is an essential ingredient to a lasting fenceline.

Fenceline posts are set on a bed of 3-inches of gravel to allow better drainage beyond the vulnerable bottom-cut. Filling the posthole with pea gravel to two-thirds its depth allows further improved drainage while eliminating the need for post stakes. (The pea gravel essentially stabilizes the post while allowing for final adjustments in plumbing) The final 6-8 inch capping of concrete acts as a washer to create stability. A slightly tapered cap will help to insure water runs away from the post. Gate posts, however, with the extra load of a hinged gate and the stress of flanking fencelines, should sit on a bed of gravel and the entire posthole filled with concrete.

Post ends should be sealed with primer or an emulsion product.(This is particularly important when the fence panels and posts are painted a white or light color, as the tannins from the post-ends will bleed out onto the body of the posts) *Do not* seal the bottom end-grain of the post, as this prevents moisture within the post from draining freely out of the bottom.



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## **POST CAPS**

Posts are ideally cut 3-1/2 inches above the top rail of the fence panels.

Ideally, whether it's a Prowell Post Cap or a standard retail cap, the caps should not be glued or adhered to the post. This will prevent the cap from breathing freely. Prowell Caps arrive pre-bored and countersunk with oversized diameter holes slightly larger than the #10 grabber screws, allowing the cap to shrink and expand without stress. It is not advisable to use finish nails, as these will potentially lift given the grade of retail caps to bowing or cupping.

A square against the post and the bottom edges of the cap insure the cap sets level.