

Erecting a Panel Fence

Installing a Panel Fence isn't that difficult, as with most DIY projects the key to success is in the preparation. Follow this simple 'step by step' guide and you can't go wrong.

As a general rule homeowners can construct fencing to a height of 2m without planning permission but there are some exceptions so it is always sensible to check with your local council planning office.

Before starting work check the boundary line of your property, it's less of an issue if you are replacing an existing fence but if there wasn't a clear line previously the topic can quickly result in disputes with neighbours.

Select the Posts

Probably the first decision which needs to be made is selecting the type of fencing posts. Timber posts are the natural choice for gardens as opposed to concrete which are more suitable to commercial premises.

You will then need to decide how you intend to fix your posts to the ground, but simply you have two choices either digging post holes or using post supports which are hammered into the ground or bolted to concrete.



Calculate the Space

When ordering your fence panels remember to allow for the space taken by your posts. A common mistake is to divide the length of the fence by the panel width without realising that you need to deduct the combined width of the posts.

The Fence Line

Mark out the fence line using string securely attached to pegs.

Before inserting posts decide where the panel should be attached.

It is advisable to leave a 75mm gap between the bottom of the panel and the ground. This space can be closed by attaching pressure treated Gravel Boards which give protection from wet rot and decay.



Don't use String

Installing posts is probably the most difficult part of the exercise, obviously they need to be secure and closely follow the boundary line. When inserting posts use a proper tape measure (I have heard of homeowners using string ... only to find that it stretches !!) and a spirit level to ensure that the posts are properly spaced and vertical.

Clips not Nails

Without doubt the most practical method of attaching panels to your posts is to use fence clips, nailing or bolting simply isn't an option as this splits the panel frame creating an entry point for decay.

Finally don't forget to attach caps to the top of your posts it only takes a few

Things you will need

- Panels - Posts
- Post supports or concrete mix.
- Post driving tool
- Fence panel clips
- Post caps
- Strong gloves
- Tape measure, spirit level and string line
- Spade/shovel

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