

Maintenance

Left unpainted or unstained, your new picket fence will change colour to a silver-grey, and may appear darker with time due to natural mould growth. Periodic light water blasting will restore some natural colouring. Painted or stained fences will require recoating with time. When painting apply at least one coat to posts and pales before fixing. That way no unpainted areas will show up when the timber naturally shrinks in summer.

Please Note: As with all fences, check with your local council if it borders council property, find out about any height restrictions, and speak with any neighbours the fence will affect.



“The most renewable natural resource” for more information visit our website www.nzwood.co.nz

Produced in association with



The Building Research Association of New Zealand

Please Note:

While the advice and recommendations contained in this brochure have been produced with proper care, they are offered only with the objective of assisting those interested in home improvement projects. PlaceMakers does not accept responsibility for the advice, recommendations, etc. contained herein.

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7. Use a spare picket as a spacer (see [Illustration 4](#)) and fix the next picket using steps 2 through 6.

Note

To stop the pickets or the rails from splitting, ensure that the nails are not too close together, or at the edge of the timber. Pre-drilling holes will also prevent them from splitting.

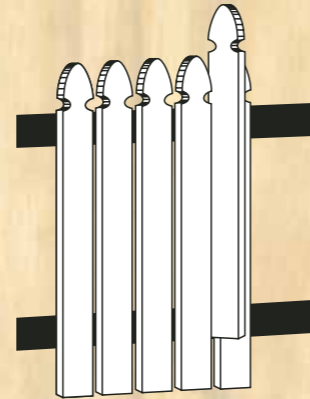


Illustration 4: Use the thickness of one picket to space the pickets

At a corner, set out the pickets as shown in [Illustration 5](#).

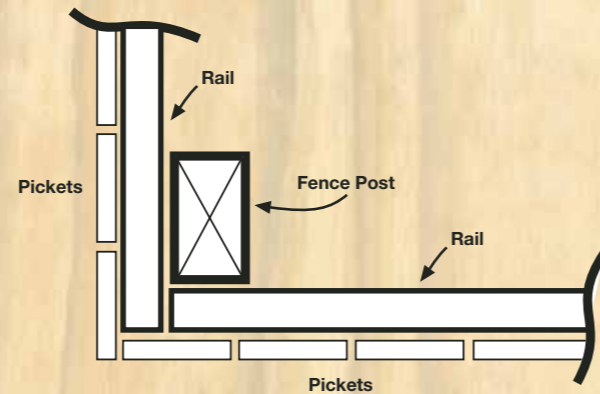


Illustration 5: Corner post

Variations

While this brochure provides construction details for a simple picket fence, there are many variations to this design. Here are a couple of suggestions.

Change the Profile

Trimming the length of the intermediate pickets can give a graceful curving profile to the fence.

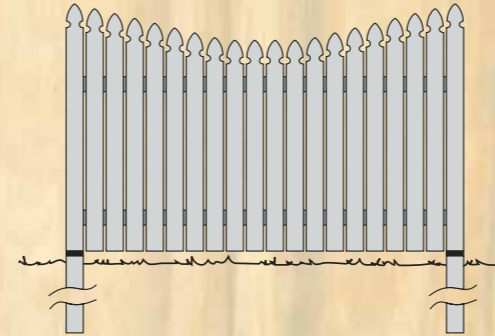


Illustration 6: Pickets trimmed to give a curving profile

Emphasise the Posts

Fix the rails between the posts and set them higher than the surrounding pickets. A simple groove cut into the top of the posts as a shadow line can provide decoration. Post caps that fix to the top of the fence. Posts are also available in a range of styles.

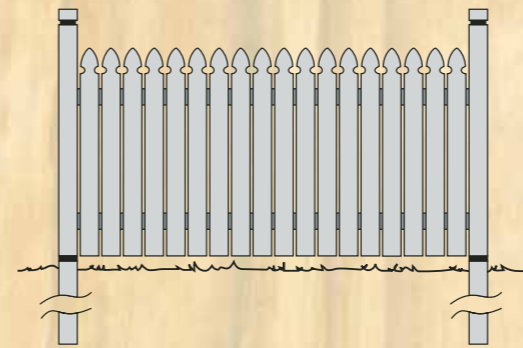


Illustration 7: Pickets set between featured posts

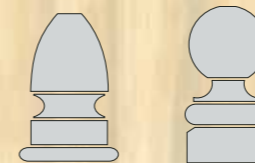


Illustration 8: Post caps in a variety of styles are available

PUTTING UP A PICKET FENCE

YOUR COMPLETE HOW TO GUIDE



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GETTING STARTED

These instructions show you how to build a basic 1.0m high picket fence. If you're using pickets of a different length, adjust these instructions to suit.

This brochure will show you how to fix the pickets to a completed post and rail structure. To get to this stage, follow the instructions for constructing the post and rail section of the fence in our *Installing Posts and Rails*, brochure. Note, the length of the post that is buried into the ground for this fence is only 650mm.

First up, complete the planning section in this brochure. Then you can order the materials required.

Ideas & Inspiration



Tools

✓	Handsaw	✓	Spirit level
✓	Stringline	✓	Square
✓	Tape Measure	✓	Pencil
✓	Hammer	✓	Spade / Post Hole Borer

Materials

MATERIALS REQUIRED		Quantity required	
90 x 70mm Radiata H4 Treated Posts	Number plus 1		at 1.5m long each
70 x 45mm Radiata H3.2 Treated Rails	Number x 4.2		metres in multiples of 2.1m lengths
68 x 19mm Radiata H3.2 Treated Pickets	Number x 24		pickets
100mm Hot-dipped Galvanised Jolt Head Nails	Number x 4		posts
60mm Hot-dipped Galvanised Jolt Head Nails	Number x 4		500gm bags
10mm Hot-dipped Galvanised Coach Bolts with Nuts & Washers			
Dricon Concrete	5.65 bags		25kg bags/post hole
Builders Mix BM20	Number ÷ 50 + 1 x 0.75		cubic metres
Cement	Number + 1 ÷ 2		40kg bags

	Example	Your Fence
Length of fence divided by 2.1	16.5m	
answer =	7.86	
Round up to next full number	8	

Planning Your Fence

Measure the total length of the proposed fence, and use that measurement in the chart provided.

Take the rounded up number and use it in the 'Materials Required' chart to work out the total amount of materials required to build your fence. Don't forget to allow extra material if you want to make gates to match your fence.

Illustration 1 shows the heights for setting posts and rails when using 1.0m long pickets. Adjust these figures up or down if your pickets are a different length. The height from the bottom edge of the picket to the ground can also be adjusted to suit your requirements, but the pickets should not touch the ground.

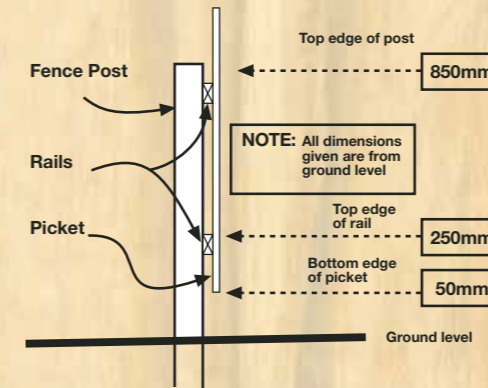


Illustration 1: Section through picket fence

Illustration 2 shows a completed section of a picket fence. The posts are placed 2.1m apart measured from the centre of one post to the centre of the next. The spacing between the posts is then 2.030m (2030mm).

Post Height: 850mm
Post Spacing: 2030mm

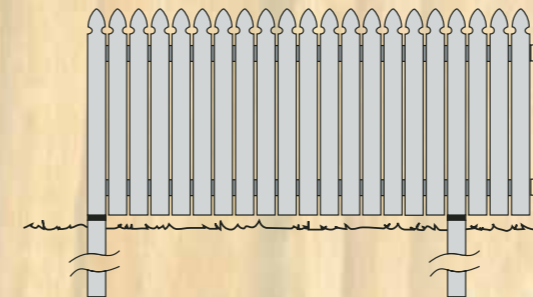


Illustration 2: Instructions in this brochure will give a completed picket fence that looks like this

Building Your Fence

Fixing Rails

The fence rails are fixed to the face of the posts using 100mm hot-dipped galvanised jolt head nails or 10mm hot-dipped galvanised bolts.

The bottom rail is approximately 250mm from ground level and the top rails fixed about 70mm down from the top of the post (see Illustration 1). For taller fences and for extra strength, you can add a middle rail.

Once you have completed fixing the rails to the posts you can begin fixing the pickets to the fence.

You may also want to paint the posts, rails and pickets before you start this final stage. You will get a much better paint finish on your fence if you paint it before installing the pickets.

For greater strength and cleaner looks, you could choose to check the rails into the post .

Fixing the Pickets to the Rails

1. Fix a picket at one end of the fence and tack or temporarily fix another picket at the other end, ensuring that both of the pickets are fixed at the correct height.
2. Run a stringline across the top of the two pickets, and pack it with a small 20mm block above the top of the picket. If the fence length is long, it would be necessary to temporarily fix the picket at the intermediate points, to eliminate any sag in the line.

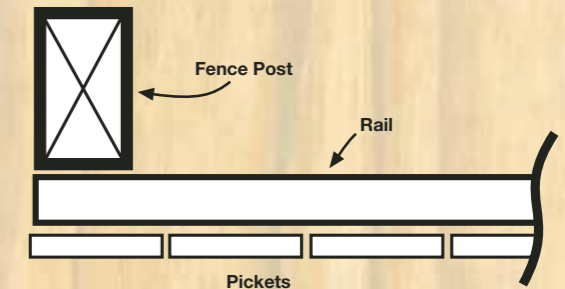


Illustration 3: End Post

3. Fix the pickets to the rails (but don't drive the nails in completely), use a spare picket as a spacer to evenly separate the pickets by the required distance, fix a 20mm spacer at the top of the picket to maintain the level along the fence (see Illustration 4).
4. Use your level to ensure that the picket is vertical.
5. Check the position of the picket and then hammer the nails in completely.
6. The picket should be fixed with 60mm hot-dipped galvanised jolt head nails, 2 nails into each rail, skewed, driven at an angle to prevent the picket from pulling away from the rail.