

LUMBERJACKS

EST. 2000

THE QUALITY TIMBER PEOPLE

Installing a wooden fence is a popular way to mark out your garden boundary and with a choice of colourful exterior [treatments](#) you can transform your fence into a wonderful contemporary garden feature. At Lumberjacks we have a great range of pre-treated [fence panels](#) available, along with all of the [fence posts](#), supports and fixings you'll need to complete the job. Follow along with this helpful how-to-guide and you'll be admiring your new fence in no time.

These tasks can be very tricky at times but can be easier if you're experienced in DIY, or have someone with DIY experience to help out. Before you get started on any of our how-to-guides, please take a moment to read through some generic DIY safety tips.



If you need any further advice, or are unsure of any of the processes outlined in this guide, please do not hesitate to get in contact.



General good practice

- Avoid wearing loose fitting clothing or jewellery that could get caught
- Ensure your workplace is clean and well organised
- If you're working inside, make sure the room is well ventilated.
- Use ladders with care. Make sure A-frame ladders are always locked in the open position, and that they're placed on a stable, level surface. If you're leaning a ladder against a vertical surface, make sure there's a 1ft spread at the base for every 4ft of height. Don't use aluminium ladders near electrical wires.

Safety equipment

- Always wear the right safety gear. If you're using spray paint or there's lots of dust around, make sure you wear safety goggles, gloves, and a dust mask.
- If you're removing old paint and are unsure whether it's lead-based, always seek advice from a reputable painter and decorator on how to dispose of it.
- Always make sure you have a well-stocked first aid kit nearby. Where possible, ask someone you trust to help, just in case anything happens.

Safety using tools

- Make sure you're familiar with the tools for the job. Drills in particular should be switched off and unplugged before fitting parts, and the chuck key removed before it's turned on.
- Try and cut away from your body when using a knife
- Keep your tools in good working order - sharp blades are safer than blunt ones
- Always ensure you have the right tools for the right job

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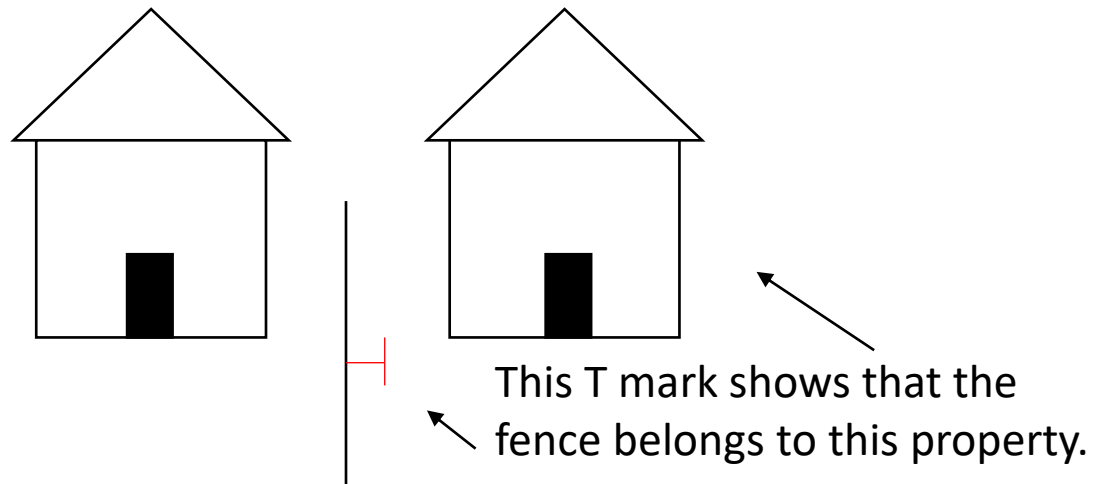


What You'll Need:

- [Fence panels](#)
- [Fence posts](#)
- [Post Mix](#)
- [Fence post supports](#)
- [Spirit level](#)
- [Tape measure](#)
- [String](#)
- [Claw hammer](#)
- [Varnish brush](#)
- Weedkiller
- [Exterior Wood Preserver](#)
- [Sledge hammer](#)
- [Saw or Power Saw](#)
- Screwdriver or Electric Screwdriver

Lumberjacks top tip.

One of the most argued about issues between neighbours is the boundary between the two properties – where it lies and who is responsible for its upkeep. If it's not clear, check your title deeds. You can get a copy from the Land Registry. 'T marks' on the plan point in the direction of the owner who has to maintain the wall, fence or hedge. These plans are always helpful to look through before starting any work on your fence.



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Step 1. Choosing the right look

There's a wide range of products to choose from at [Lumberjacks](#), so a visit to the shop to clarify your decision is recommended, the staff here are always happy to assist and give guidance where possible.

- [Closeboard](#) / Featheredge fencing – [Closeboard](#) is made up of overlapping vertical boards of timber. This is the strongest and heaviest panel. It gives you complete privacy and is ideal for any garden fence. At Lumberjacks we make all these panels in house and all are sent through quality control ensuring they are fit for purpose.
- [Overlap fencing / Waney Lap](#) – these panels are made from overlapping horizontal timber boards. It's a cheaper fence panel which still offers a high level of privacy.
- [Picket fencing](#) – a great way to break up your garden which can help provide low borders, which helps maintain the view from your garden. At Lumberjacks we make all these [picket panels](#) in house and all are sent through quality control ensuring they are fit for purpose.
- [Trellis](#) – The use of trellis as open screen fencing or as a decorative panel on top of a solid fence can be very effective and give a great look to your fence. At Lumberjacks we make all these [trellis panels](#) in house and all are sent through quality control ensuring they are fit for purpose.
- All of our in house made products are made from pressure treated timber.

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Step 2. Choosing the right posts

•Decide if you would like to use [wooden](#), [concrete posts](#) or [dura post](#). You also need to decide whether you want to set them in [concrete](#) or use [post supports](#). Post supports are metal housings dug into or fixed onto the ground and are all supplied by Lumberjacks.



•[Concrete posts](#) ensure you have a good strong fence.



•[Wooden posts](#) are easier to handle, but have a slightly higher risk of rot if not installed correctly.



•Metal [Dura Post](#) are a fairly new and very exciting product which comes with a 15 or 25 year guarantee.





Lumberjacks top tip.

Check your fence complies with planning rules. You will need planning permission for fences over 2m high.

Step 3. Getting the height right

- Decide on the height of your fence, that way you can work out the length of the posts to buy.
 - If you're digging in [wooden posts](#) and setting in [concrete](#) you'll need 8ft (2.4m) posts for a 6ft (1.8m) fence (including gravel board height if being used) – i.e. your posts are 2ft (0.6m) longer than the fence height, as a rule generally all posts need to be a minimum of 2ft (0.6m) in the ground. Longer posts maybe used on certain types of installations such as, fencing up/down slopes, where the soil is sandy and if you are planning to retain soil/stone. Before digging check for pipes and electric cables in the ground as they go down to a depth of up to 24in.
 - If you are using a wooden post and the height of the fence is under 4ft (1.2m) then a 3" x 3" (75mm x 75mm) post is sufficient enough for the job. If the height of the fence is over 4ft (1.2m) then switching to 4" x 4" (100mm x 100mm) post would be recommended to use.
 - If you use [post spikes](#) or [bolt-down post sockets](#), you'll need 6ft posts for a 6ft fence.
 - If using [post spikes](#), check for pipes and electric cables in the ground as they go down to a depth of up to 24in.
- If you need any further advice, or are unsure of any of the processes outlined in this guide, please do not hesitate to get in contact.



Step 4. Getting the right number of panels

- [Fence panels](#) are nearly always 6ft (1.83m) wide.
- Measure the length of the line where the fence is being installed. Divide the length of the line by the width of the panel (6ft) – for example a 48ft fence, $48\text{ft} \div 6\text{ft} = 8$ panels.
- You'll also need the same number of [gravel boards](#) to place at the bottom of each panel.
- Add one more [fence post](#) to the number of [panels](#) needed so you have enough posts to support both ends of the fence.





Step 5. Preparing to start the job

- Before you start, clear away vegetation and treat the area with weedkiller if needed.
- Most [fence panels](#) and [wooden posts](#) are pre-treated to prevent rot and insect attack. But it's a good idea to treat any sawn end with an all-purpose [wood preservative](#). For added protection please use Post Savers on any wooden post that are dug into the ground and set in concrete, this will prolong the life expectancy of all timber posts.
- Use a [string line](#), [pegs](#) and [line marker](#) to mark out where the fence is going. Mark the position of the first post.



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Step 6. Setting your posts in concrete / post mix

- The holes for your [posts](#) should be three times as wide as the post. So for example a 4in (100mm) post, the hole would need to be at least 12in (300mm) wide. The holes should be 2ft (600mm) deep.
- Going down your line follow the [string line](#), dig a hole for each post with a [post spade/shovel](#)
- To make it easy use a piece of [wood cut to 6ft](#) as a guide for setting out the next bay, making sure to keep the cut ends square. That way you don't have to keep lifting [panels](#) into position.
- At the bottom of the post hole add a thin layer of [hardcore](#) or [stone](#) to help with drainage.
- You can mix your concrete fresh using 4 parts [ballast](#) to 1 part [cement](#) but it's easier to use a bespoke concrete mix such as [Post mix](#). Normally you half-fill the hole with water and pour the [post mix](#) on top, adding more water if necessary. Guidelines for using this product are written on each bag so take note before using this product.
- The concrete should be just above ground level. [Trowel](#) the surface smooth, sloping the concrete away from the post to let water run off. This will help to stop post from rotting.
- Check the post is vertical level on two sides of the post with a [spirit level](#). Then prop it up with one or two timber battens to hold it in position while the concrete sets.
- [Post mix](#) concrete sets in just a few minutes, so be sure to work quickly. Go along the fence line, making sure the [posts](#) are aligned with each other as well as being upright. They shouldn't ever be too far out if you have kept the [fence post](#) to the [string line](#) when digging the holes.



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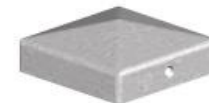
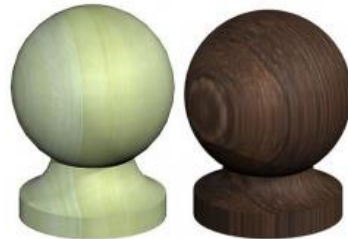
Step 7. Securing your new fence panels

- It's recommended to keep the [fence panels](#) off the ground to prevent them rotting. Do this by adding treated [gravel boards](#) or [concrete gravel boards](#) along the bottom or leaving a gap of a recommended 6" (150mm) under each panel. These can be fixed using our [gravel board brackets](#) when using timber posts.

- [Screw](#) the [panels](#) to the [posts](#) using two or three U-shaped [panel clips](#) (available on line or in store at Lumberjacks) per side of each panel. Use stainless steel [screws](#) to prevent rusting.



- If you're using [wooden posts](#), when the [panels](#) are all in place trim the tops of each post so they're all the same height. Then screw on a [post cap](#) ([drill](#) a hole in the cap first to prevent splitting).





Step 8. Fencing on a gradient

- If your fence is on a sloping gradient, still ensure the panels are kept horizontal. Fill the angled gap under each panel by cutting a [gravel board](#) to suit (also know as scribing) or build a low retaining wall directly under the fence (which can be more time consuming).
- This will make your fence look level, especially if it runs alongside your house, [shed](#), garage or any other building.

Your fence will be an integral part of your garden design and whichever style of [fencing](#) or [trellis](#) you choose, it should last for many years – especially if you use an exterior [wood preserver](#) that comes in a range of colours (available online or in store).



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