

**WINNIPEG'S 2014
FENCE BUILDERS'
GUIDE**

Dr. Post

Build Fences Faster & Easier Just Like the Pros

Prepared for Winnipeg's Do-It-Yourself
(DIY) Weekend Warriors



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Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

1. Will I require a building permit for my fence?

The City of Winnipeg does not require a building permit for the construction of a residential privacy fence. If you live in rural Manitoba it is best to contact the Planning Department of your local municipality as some towns do require a building permit.

2. What are the height restrictions for residential fences?

The City of Winnipeg has a by-law that limits the height of a residential fence to 6' in height for backyard fences. If your fence will be in the front yard the city limits its height to 4'. In some new houses in the city, you may have a specific fence detail that is required by your developer.

3. How do I find my property line?

With the purchase of any home, a copy of the survey certificate should be included in the papers received from your lawyer. The survey certificate will provide all necessary information to determine the property line.

5. How deep should my fence posts be dug?

The norm of the fencing industry is 3' deep. We strongly suggest that you go 4' deep with your fence posts to ensure a long lasting fence.

4. What is required before drilling of fence posts can begin?

Before drilling fence posts ALWAYS have the proper utility locates completed.



Manitoba Hydro
(204) 480-1212
www.clickbeforeyoudigmb.com



MTS
(204) 941-7267
www.clickbeforeyoudigmb.com



Shaw
(204)480-3476
www.digshaw.ca



STEP 1: SITE DRAWING

The first step in constructing a fence is to determine where you would like the fence to go in your yard. Make a site drawing, with measurements, to help with design and material estimating. Include locations of house and garage, large trees and any other objects that may be in the way of fence construction. Make a copy of your survey certificate to aid your site drawing, or use the drawing below. Don't forget gate locations.



TIP FROM A PRO

MEASURE THE ENTIRE LENGTH OF FENCE AND ENSURE THE POSTS ARE EVENLY SPACED. NOTHING LOOKS MORE OUT OF PLACE THEN A FENCE SECTION TWO FEET LONG.

A large, empty grid of small squares, intended for creating a site drawing of a yard and fence layout.

STEP 2: SELECT YOUR STYLE

With many styles of fences available, select one that is structurally strong fence and compliments your yard. There are many different materials available for your fencing project. They include:

- pressure treated green
- pressure treated cedartone
- cedar
- PVC/vinyl
- composite
- wrought iron
- aluminum



STEP 3: ORDER YOUR MATERIAL

Take the picture or drawing of your desired fence along with your site drawing to your local lumber yard. The staff there will look over your documents and will inform you of any design problems. They will provide you with a material take-off, which will provide you a list of all of the lumber and fasteners required for your project. Be sure to add a few extra pieces to these totals to prepare for the pieces that don't get measured twice. Its always more efficient to have these materials delivered as it saves hours of time.

STEP 4: TOOLS REQUIRED

- Safety glasses
- Hearing protection
- 100' tape measure
- string line
- marking paint
- gas powered or manual post hole auger
- shovel
- wheelbarrow
- sheet of plywood
- post level
- tamping bar
- circular saw
- mitre saw
- table saw
- 25' tape measure
- pencils
- carpenters square
- cordless drill
- driver and drill bits
- 2' level
- air compressor
- air hose
- nail gun or stapler
- saw horses



STEP 5: DRILLING POSTS

After the utilities locates have been completed and all of the posts have been marked out with marking paint you can start drilling your fence posts. Be sure to drill these holes straight. Clean the excess mud out of the bottom of the hole and throw a post in to the hole to prevent someone from falling in to it. **REMEMBER: Holes within 1 meter of utility lines must be drilled by hand.**

TIP FROM A PRO

INSTEAD OF DRILLING AND SETTING A POST UP AGAINST A HOUSE OR GARAGE, ATTACH IT WITH 3-4 GRK STRUCTURAL SCREWS. DAMAGE TO THE WEeping SYSTEM OF THE HOUSE IS NOW NO LONGER POSSIBLE.

TIP FROM A PRO

WHEN DRILLING YOUR HOLES, USE A PIECE OF PLYWOOD TO SHOVEL THE MUD ONTO. IT WILL SAVE HOURS OF CLEAN UP.

STEP 6: SETTING POSTS

Using a post level, set the corner posts and then attach a string line to the posts. Make sure the string line is tight and use it to align all of the line posts, ensuring they are plum and level. Use $\frac{3}{4}$ " down limestone to fill the hole halfway and then use a tamping bar to compact the limestone. Fill the rest of the hole and tamp again.

TIP FROM A PRO

WHILE SETTING FENCE POSTS MAKE SURE TO SET THE POSTS TO HEIGHT. THIS WILL TAKE EXTRA TIME BUT IS WORTH IT IN THE LONG RUN. CUTTING FENCE POSTS FROM A LADDER IS DIFFICULT AND DANGEROUS.

STEP 7: FRAMING THE FENCE

Measure and cut the framing members of the fence. These are known as stringers or rails. Using a cordless drill, attach the stringers using the proper screws. Be sure to attach these with the crown (all lumber has a natural curve to it) of the lumber pointing up to reduce "sag" over time. Stringers should have a tight fit without pushing the posts out of level.



- 1 STRING LINE
- 2 STRINGERS



STEP 8: INSTALLING FENCE BOARDS

Begin installing the fence boards using staples, nails or screws. Use pneumatic tools for this whenever possible to increase speed. Attach the first fence board and continue along the fence section. Do not leave a gap between the fence boards, when the wood dries out gaps will appear between fence boards. Hold up a fence board, trace it and cut it with a table saw to ensure a tight fit when you are at the end of a section.

TIP FROM A PRO

INCREASE THE LIFESPAN OF YOUR FENCE WHILE DECREASING FUTURE TIME SPENT MAINTAINING IT BY USING THE PROPER FASTENERS. PRESSURE TREATED LUMBER SHOULD ONLY BE ATTACHED WITH GALVANIZED AND ACQ APPROVED FASTENERS.

TIP FROM A PRO

WHEN YOU START INSTALLING THE FENCE BOARDS USE A 2' LEVEL AND CHECK EVERY FEW BOARDS TO ENSURE AN ATTRACTIVE FENCE.



TIP FROM A PRO

BE SURE TO BUILD THE FRAME OF YOUR GATE ON A FLAT SURFACE OR WORK BENCH.

STEP 9: GATES

Frame the gate to be 1" smaller than the gate opening. A gate should not be wider than 4', as it becomes too heavy and will sag over time. Hang the frame level using hinges and attach fence board to the frame. Keep the pickets flush with the frame to prevent the gate from binding. Attach a latch and test the operation of the gate.

STEP 10: MAINTENANCE

Pressure treated lumber should sit untouched for one year so that excess moisture in the wood caused by the preserving process can escape. After one year the fence should at least get a clear water sealer. It is at this time that the fence may be stained or painted and a new coat should be applied every 5 years. Every year a walk around of the entire fence line should be completed so any issues such as broken fence boards and popped fasteners can be addressed. Small fixes now will prevent costly extensive repairs later. If you notice any posts are loose make sure they get tamped.

TIP FROM A PRO

DON'T FORGET TO TREAT ANY CUTS MADE TO PRESSURE TREATED LUMBER WITH A PRESERVATIVE. IT WILL PREVENT PREMATURE ROT TO THE LUMBER.



ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT TACKLING A FENCE PROJECT THIS YEAR?

**WANT TO SAVE SOME MONEY ON A COSTLY FENCE INSTALL
BUT DON'T KNOW WHERE TO START?**

Dr. Post is now offering a DIY Fence Package to help you build your fence like a Pro.

Included in the DIY Fence Package is:

- a copy of our **Fence Building Guide**
- marking of property line
- fence post drilling and setting
- removal of post hole mud
- supply and delivery of fence materials

Let one of Winnipeg's top fence builders, Dr. Post, handle all of the dirty work for your fence project.

Contact us for more details on this program.



PLUS! With every purchase of our DIY Fence Package, you will be entered in a draw for Winnipeg Jets tickets in the 2014-15 season.

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