



PRODUCT & INSTALLATION GUIDE

Post & Rail Fencing Installation Guide

Everything you need to choose, plan and install premium White Cypress Pine post & rail.

BARLING'S WOODWORKS EST. 1996

STEP 1 — DECIDE THE LOOK

Pick your rail style



Style P5, One Rail



Style P3, Two Rail



Style P2, Three Rail



Style P1 Four Rail

Rails

Rail width	Lengths available
150 × 50 mm	2400, 2700, 3000 mm
200 × 50 mm	2400, 2700, 3000 mm

Posts

Post size	Typical use
150 × 150 mm	Standard line & end posts
200 × 100 mm	Heavier runs
200 × 200 mm	End / gate posts, contrast

STEP 2 — WORK OUT THE NUMBERS

Plan your fence

Bay spacing

The gap between post centres. Standard bays are **2.4 m, 2.7 m or 3.0 m**. We advise spacing **no greater than 3.0 m** to keep the fence strong.

Heights above ground

1200 mm and **1350 mm** are our standard heights — but we can make your posts to **any height you need**, just ask.

Know your post types

End — mortised halfway through; starts & ends a run.

Mid — mortised all the way through; carries a continuous run.

How deep to set posts

Post	In-ground depth*
1.8 m End & Mid	~600 mm
2.1 m End & Mid	~750 mm
Gate posts	600–1200 mm

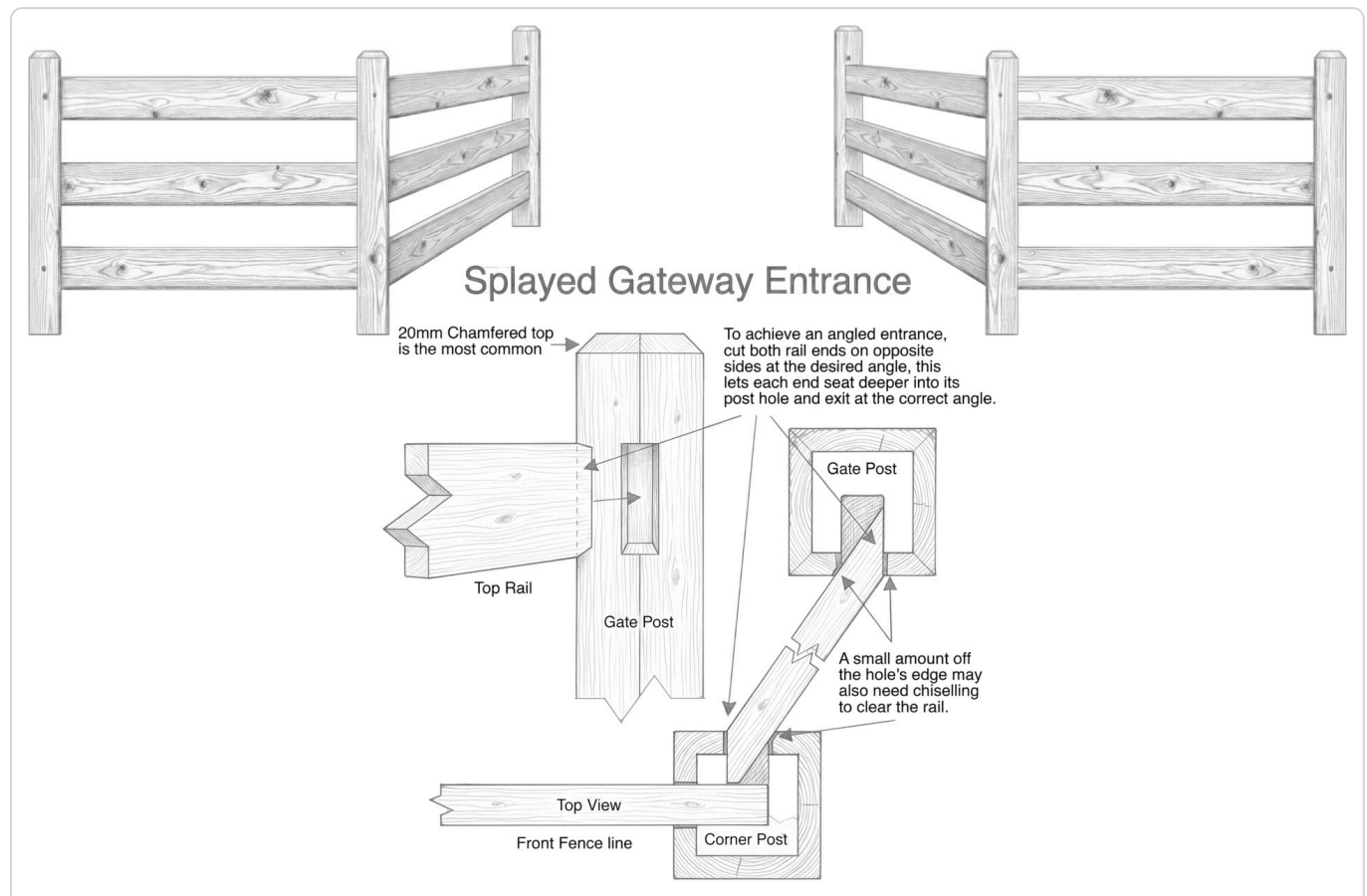
**Varies with ground type. Gate depth depends on gate width & weight — heavier gates go deeper. Check with your gate manufacturer for the recommended post size and depth.*

Corner — mortised two sides halfway for a 90° change of direction.

Gate — like an End post, but often longer in-ground (and larger) to hold heavier gates.

Entrances & gateways

To make your entrance **safer** and allow your vehicle to be **clear of road traffic** when opening or closing your gate, add a short splayed entrance at your desired angle.



STEP 3 — PLAN AHEAD, DIG SAFE, STAY COMPLIANT

Before you dig

Five minutes of planning here saves a lot of grief later. Do these three things before a shovel goes in the ground.

1. Dial Before You Dig

Call **1100** or lodge a free enquiry at **1100.com.au** to locate underground services (gas, power, water, comms) before digging. Avoids a costly — and dangerous — mistake.

2. Check with council

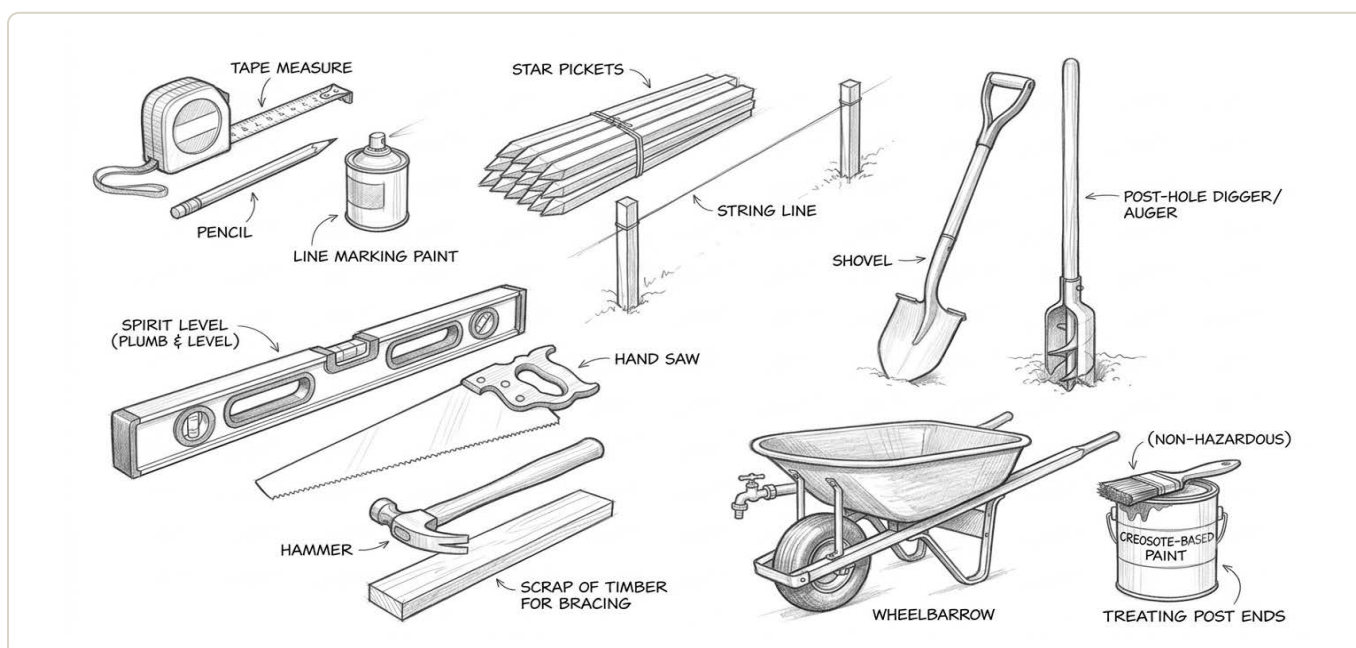
Confirm any rules on **fence height, boundaries and permits** with your local council before you start, especially near a boundary or road.

3. Site & safety gear

Clear the work area, make sure the ground is stable, and wear your **PPE** — boots, gloves, eye protection, sun hat and long sleeves. Keep a first-aid kit handy.

Tools you'll want

- String line & star pickets (to set out the run)
- Tape measure & pencil
- Spirit level (for plumb & level)
- Shovel and post-hole digger or auger
- Line marking paint
- Hand saw (to trim rails)
- Hammer & a scrap of timber for bracing
- Wheelbarrow (to mix & move slurry / concrete)
- Non-hazardous, creosote-based paint for post ends



The golden rule

Set your **end posts first**, get them dead plumb, then run your string line between them. Take your time at set-out — walk the line, look from a few angles, and get the flow right **before** any posts are set. Once they're in, there's no going back.

STEP 4 — THE IMPORTANT BIT

Two ways to set your posts

You can set your posts in an earth-and-cement **slurry** or in **concrete**. Both work well — here's how to do each.

Which should I use? Slurry is cheaper and perfectly good for standard runs in reasonable soil. Choose **concrete (rapid-set)** for heavier gate posts, soft or wet ground, or when you want maximum strength — and we recommend End & Corner posts are concreted in to anchor the fence.

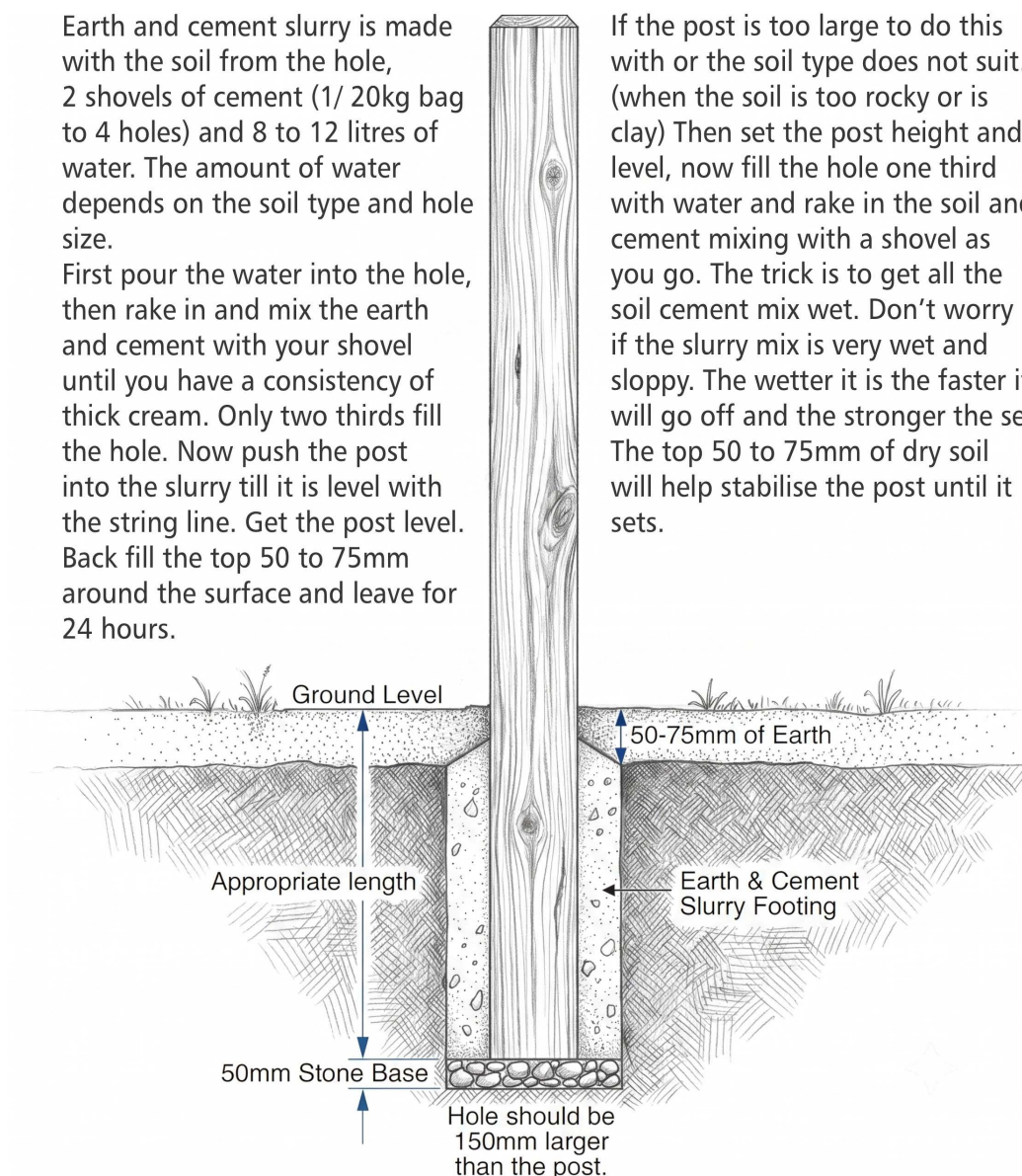
Method A — Earth & cement slurry

INSTALLATION IN EARTH & CEMENT SLURRY

Earth and cement slurry is made with the soil from the hole, 2 shovels of cement (1/ 20kg bag to 4 holes) and 8 to 12 litres of water. The amount of water depends on the soil type and hole size.

First pour the water into the hole, then rake in and mix the earth and cement with your shovel until you have a consistency of thick cream. Only two thirds fill the hole. Now push the post into the slurry till it is level with the string line. Get the post level. Back fill the top 50 to 75mm around the surface and leave for 24 hours.

If the post is too large to do this with or the soil type does not suit. (when the soil is too rocky or is clay) Then set the post height and level, now fill the hole one third with water and rake in the soil and cement mixing with a shovel as you go. The trick is to get all the soil cement mix wet. Don't worry if the slurry mix is very wet and sloppy. The wetter it is the faster it will go off and the stronger the set. The top 50 to 75mm of dry soil will help stabilise the post until it sets.

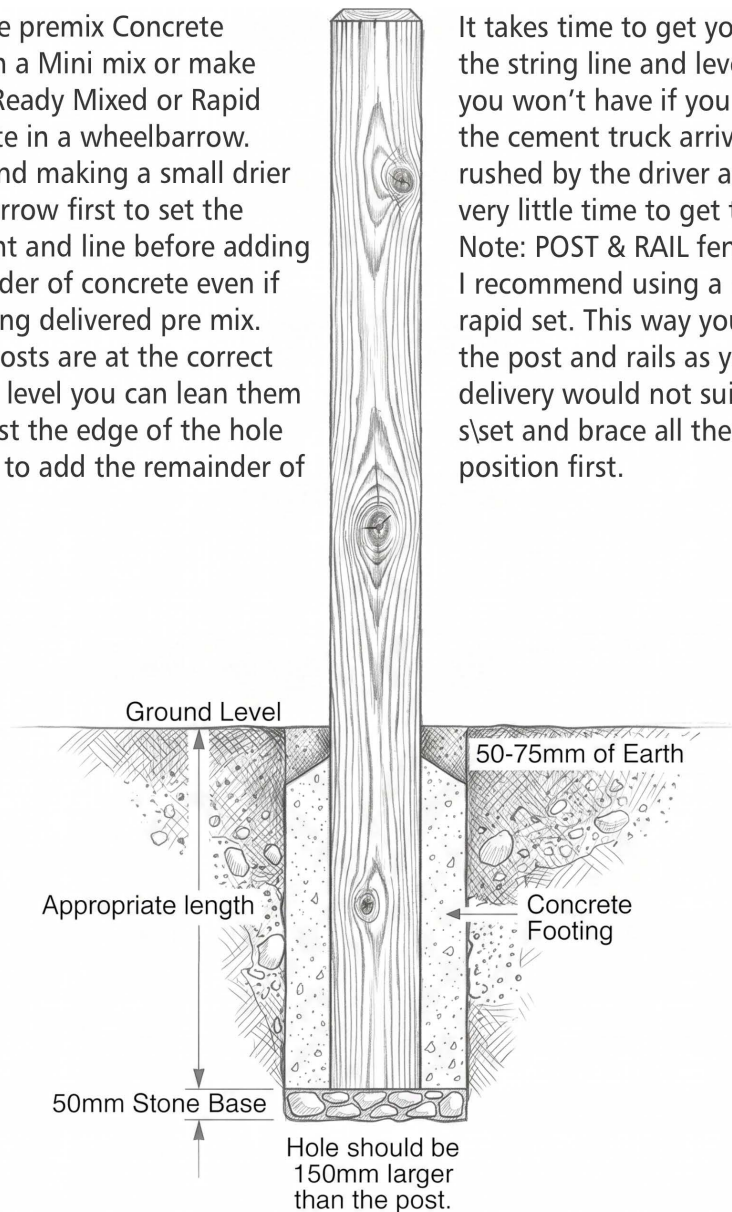


Method B — Concrete footing**INSTALLATION IN
CONCRETE FOOTING**

You can use premix Concrete delivered in a Mini mix or make your own Ready Mixed or Rapid set Concrete in a wheelbarrow. I recommend making a small drier mix in a barrow first to set the posts height and line before adding the remainder of concrete even if you are using delivered pre mix. Once the posts are at the correct height and level you can lean them back against the edge of the hole until ready to add the remainder of concrete.

It takes time to get your posts set to the string line and levelled, it's time you won't have if you leave it until the cement truck arrives. You will be rushed by the driver and will have very little time to get the posts right. Note: POST & RAIL fences.

I recommend using a ready mix like rapid set. This way you can install the post and rails as you go. Pre mix delivery would not suit unless you set and brace all the posts in position first.



Tip: for post & rail we recommend a rapid-set concrete so you can install your posts and rails **as you go**. Pre-mix delivery has to be rushed and means bracing every post first.

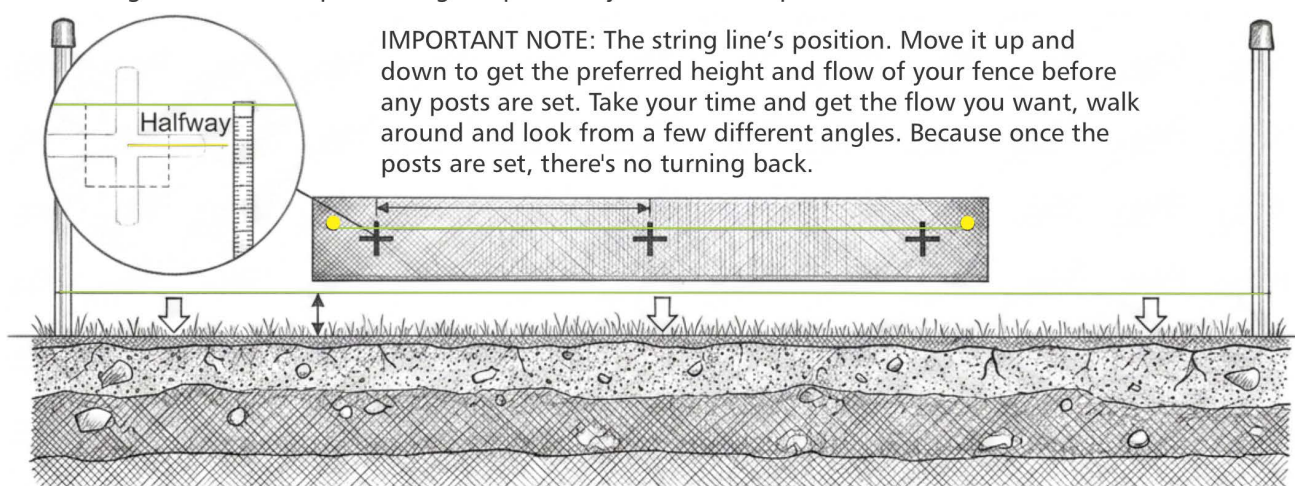
STEP 5 — PUT IT IN THE GROUND

Installing your fence, step by step

1 Set out the fence line

Offset the star pickets from the centre line of the fence by half the width of the post. If the post is 150mm then set the string line 75mm to the far side from where you will be working. Doing this keeps the star pickets and stringline from interfering with the post installation. NOTE: star pickets must not be more than 10 metres apart. Run the string line on the fence side of the star pickets around 150mm off the ground. Mark your post holes using line marking paint at the spacings of your fence style. (2.4, 2.7 or 3.0 metres) (Some post spacings may need to be altered later due to obstructions in the ground) Mark the cross large enough to see the centre line after you have dug the hole.

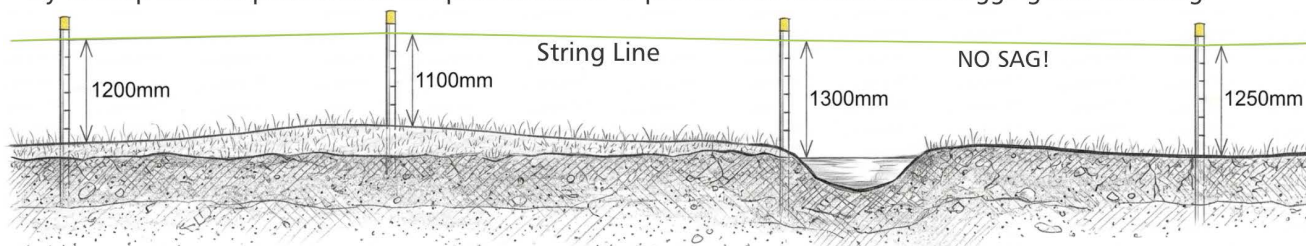
When you have finished marking your holes, take down the string line, (NOTE: leave the star pickets in place) You can now dig your holes and when finished, run your string line at the required height of the fence posts using the previously installed star pickets.



2 Allow for uneven ground

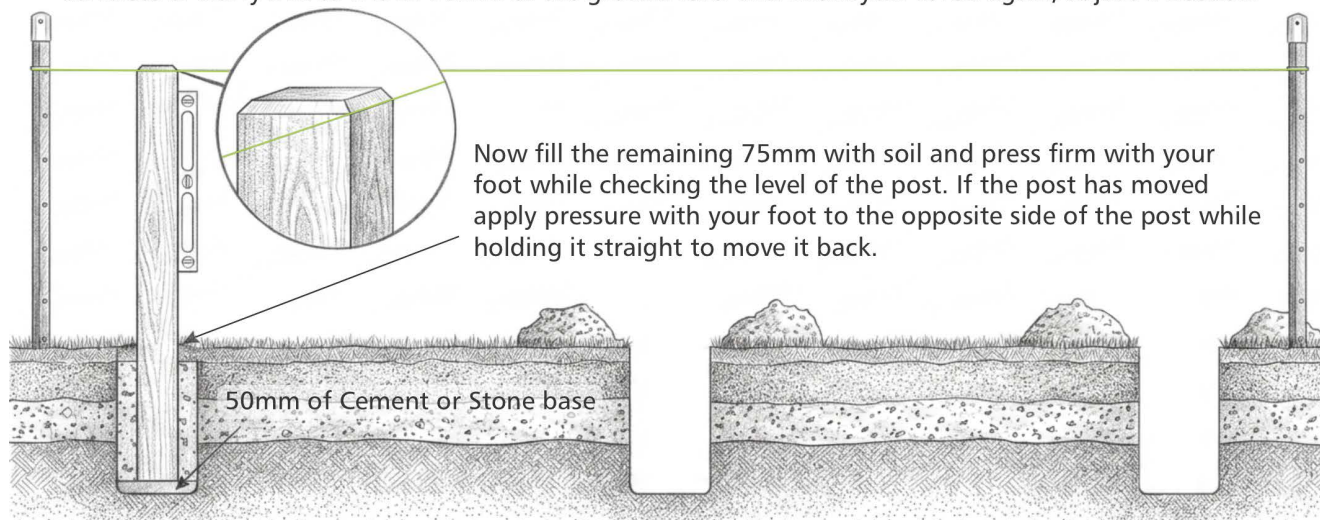
Keep the stringline as tight as you can, a sagging stringline equals a sagging fence line! You may need to have sections higher and lower than the set fence height to allow for uneven ground. This way you can keep the look and flow to the top of the fence aesthetically pleasing. We suggest you run the entire fence line, keeping the line as tight as possible and as mentioned in step one, take your time. Stringline and star pickets are relatively cheap. Be happy first with the look and flow, then proceed.

Try to keep the star pickets between post locations to prevent interference when digging and installing.



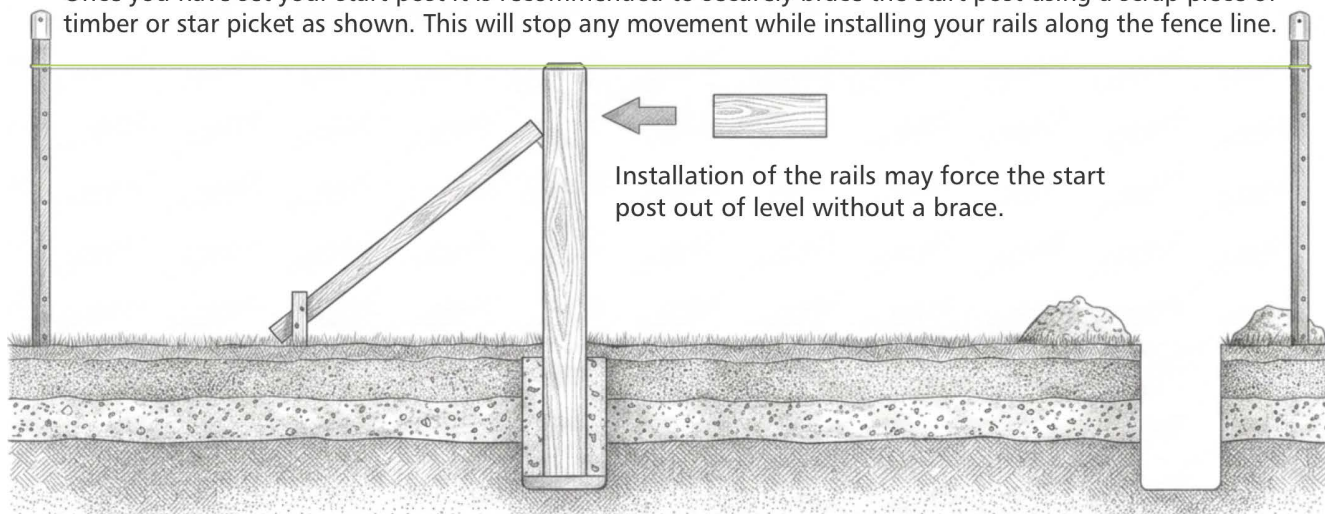
3 Set your first post

Set the height of the stringline to the highest point of the post's edge as per example. Once you have set the height of your first post to the string line and have levelled the post in both directions, fill the hole with concrete or slurry mix to within 75mm of the ground level and check your levels again, adjust if needed.



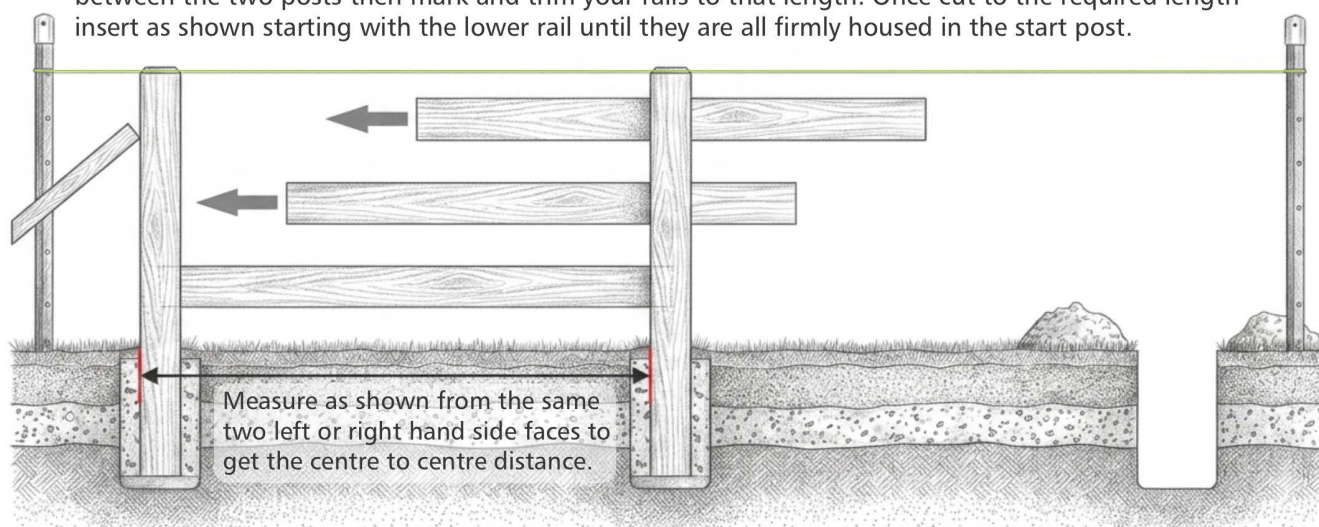
4 Brace the start post

Once you have set your start post it is recommended to securely brace the start post using a scrap piece of timber or star picket as shown. This will stop any movement while installing your rails along the fence line.



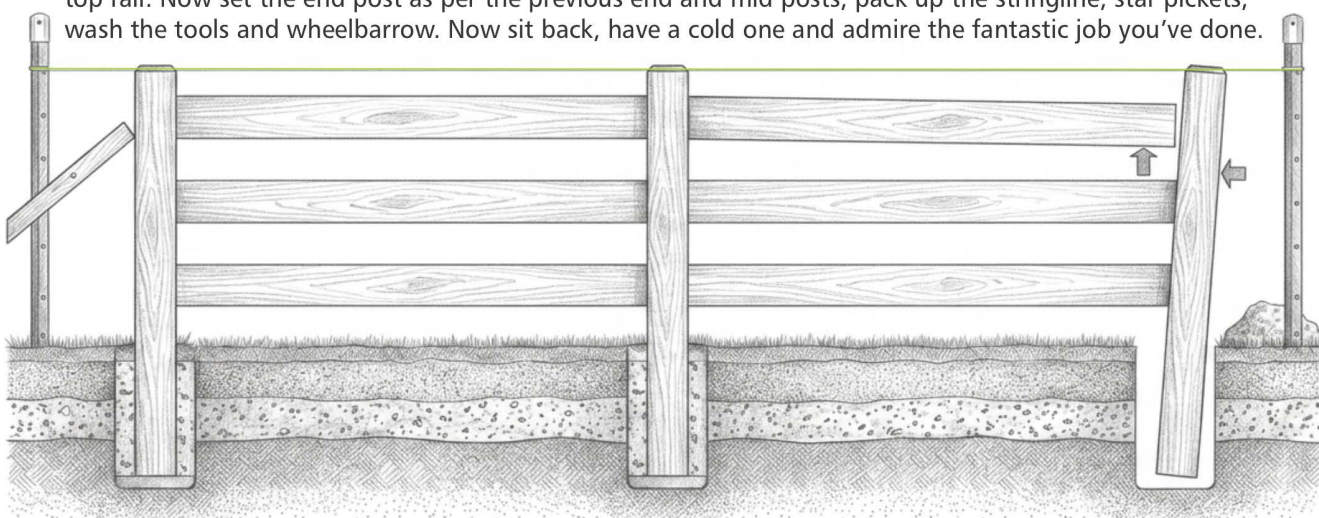
5 Set the next post & fit the rails

Now set your next post in the same way as the first. When done measure the centre to centre distance between the two posts then mark and trim your rails to that length. Once cut to the required length insert as shown starting with the lower rail until they are all firmly housed in the start post.



6 Finish the run

Repeat the previous step and get that centre to centre distance then trim your rails. Now this is where a couple of extra hands are good. Set the height of your last post to the stringline then lean it outwards just enough to insert the bottom rail. Now slowly begin to bring it upright as your extra hands insert the middle then top rail. Now set the end post as per the previous end and mid posts, pack up the stringline, star pickets, wash the tools and wheelbarrow. Now sit back, have a cold one and admire the fantastic job you've done.



FINISHING & LOOKING AFTER IT

Painting & care

- ✓ **Paint or stain straight away.** No weathering wait and no tannin bleed onto concrete or pavers.
- ✓ **Protect what's buried.** Coat the in-ground section with a non-hazardous, creosote-based paint (Bondall or Diggers Eco) for the longest life.
- ✓ **Chemical-free timber.** Safe to handle, and safe at end of life.
- ✓ **Low upkeep.** A re-coat every few years keeps it looking its best, but cypress is happy left natural too.

The Barling's Promise — 30 years of quality

Established in 1996, we believe in building trust one fence at a time. Our team — founder **John Barling**, sons **Andrew** and **Michael**, daughter **Danielle** and trusted friend **Gerry** — brings 96 years of combined experience to every project. Every post & rail is meticulously handcrafted in-house, right here in Victoria.

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LEAD TIME

3–5 working days
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Need an installer or extra materials? Ask us — we can point you in the right direction.

Please note: This guide is general advice to help you install your fence. Ground conditions, gate weights, council rules and site factors vary — always check local requirements and, if in doubt, use a qualified fencing contractor. Measurements are typical starting points, not a substitute for your own site assessment. Follow the directions on any concrete, cement or paint product you use.