



*The* **FENCE  
AUTHORITY**

OUTDOOR LIVING EXPERTS™

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# DIY FENCING GUIDE

A STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE TO DIY FENCE INSTALLATION  
FROM THE FENCE AUTHORITY





# What this guide contains:



## Steps to successful fence installation

- 1 Consider factors that will influence the type of fence you get.
- 2 Prepare your yard for your new fence
- 3 Mark and Measure Your Perimeter
- 4 Install your new fence!

## Resources

[About ActiveYards EZ Fence 2 Go](#)

[My Fence Project Workbook](#)

[Fence Installation Tool Checklist](#)

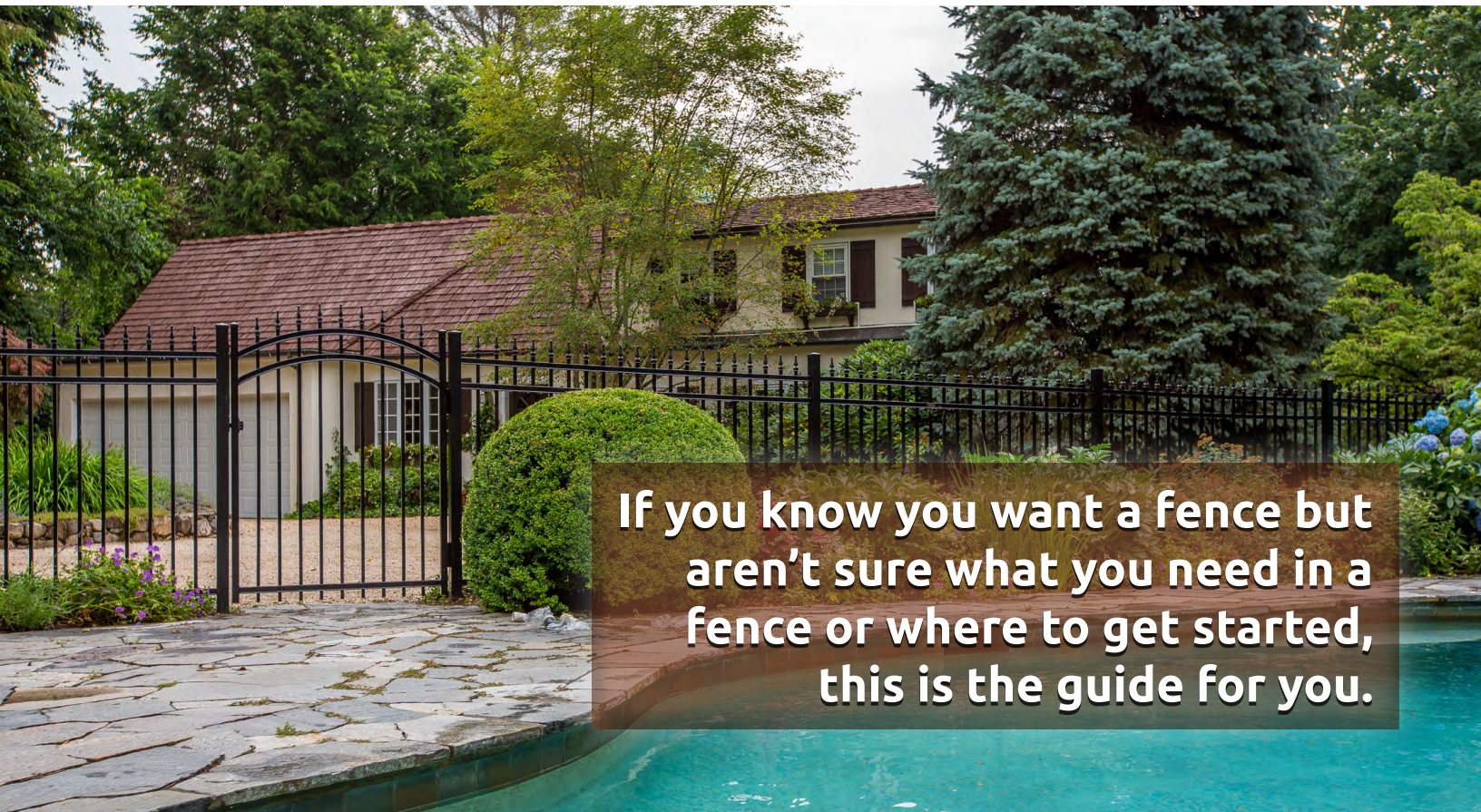


# Building the Fence of Your Dreams On Your Own Terms!



Installing your own fence not only allows you to save costs—it also allows you to be active in every step of the process. For many people, this is the only way to make sure they get everything they want out of their fence. Others are not prepared to take on the project alone and would rather hire someone to install their fence—and that’s fine too! The Fence Authority wants you to choose a installation process that works for you.

This guide covers what you should do if you’re thinking about a DIY fencing project—everything from deciding what type of fence to install to preparing your yard. Even if you decide not to install your own fence, you will find this information helpful!



**If you know you want a fence but aren't sure what you need in a fence or where to get started, this is the guide for you.**

# 1

Consider the factors that will influence the type of fence you get.

List your needs and decide *what your biggest priority* is for installing your new fence.

## 1

*Is appearance your main reason for getting a fence?*

If the aesthetic value of a fence is the main thing you're after, your possible choices will be quite extensive. You might consider an aluminum fence with ornate decorations, or for a more natural look, a wooden split-rail fence.

## 2

*Are you concerned about the cost of materials and maintenance?*

Wood fences are generally cheaper than vinyl fences. However, unlike vinyl, wood will require regular maintenance and will need to be repainted or stained to keep your fence looking new.

## 3

*Does your fence need to keep your dog inside the yard?*

Some dogs jump and climb fences while others dig under them. Installing chicken wire in the ground can make it harder for your dog to dig. However, if you have a larger dog that climbs and jumps, a fence as high as 6' might be necessary.

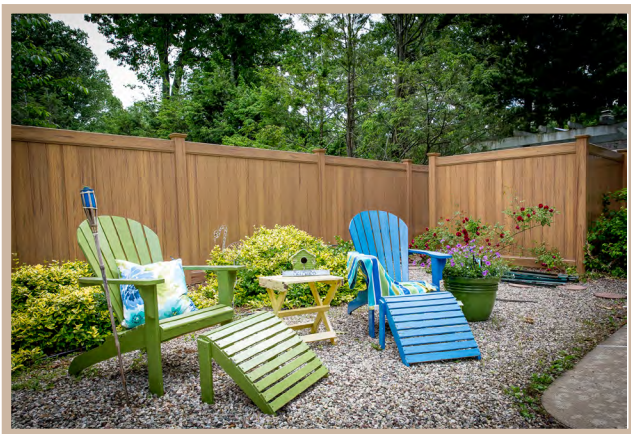




# Are you looking for privacy and seclusion?



**Partial privacy fences** have spaces in between panels. These fences are often called “**good neighbor fences**” because they generally look the same on both sides, whereas with a solid panel fence, you’ll want to face the more finished side toward your neighbor. The spaces in between the panels create more visibility, but you can compensate for this by planting foliage in your yard.



**Solid panel privacy fences** are the standard for privacy. Popular materials for this type of fence include wood and, for a lower-maintenance fence, vinyl.





# What's the environment of your yard?



You don't want to install a fence and later realize that it can't hold up in your climate. The environment of your area will impact the material and style of fence that works best.

## ***Heavy Sun***

If your fence is in the sun—and especially if you live somewhere with very hot, heavy sun—you may need to consider vinyl or aluminum. Sunlight is hard on wood.

## ***Rocky Terrain***

Getting wooden posts into rocky ground can be difficult. If your yard is extremely rocky, you may need to use metal posts or hold your fence down with above-ground weights.

## ***Wind***

Closely-spaced pickets aren't usually the best choice for windy conditions—they catch the wind and essentially make your fence act like a sail. Widely-spaced pickets will allow air to flow through them.

## ***Sloping Land***

If your yard is flat, planning a fence will be a lot easier—but it is quite possible to install a fence on sloping land! Panels may just need to be customized to fit the slope.





# Are there any code requirements?



*Some cities and neighborhoods have restrictions on fencing. They may limit the height of your fence so you will definitely want to make sure you know the codes. Before installing a fence, you'll have to check that the height, material, and style is approved.*

***Neighborhood or municipal rules:*** Your Home Owner's Association may have specific rules about the types of fences that are allowed in order to maintain a certain look and sense of community.

***Pool codes:*** If you're getting a fence for your backyard pool, you need to make sure it meets the pool fence requirements in your area. You may want to look into a fence with a lock or other safety features.

***Check zoning codes and restrictions before you proceed.***





# Be a good neighbor and confirm your property line!



Your neighbor just might get mad if you put a fence on their property. On the flip side, you don't want to risk cutting off portions of your own property. Therefore, you need to know exactly where your property line is.

It's also a good idea to give your neighbors a heads up about your project. They'll be seeing your fence from their houses every day.

Besides, sometimes it turns out that your neighbor is interested in a fence too—and willing to split the cost.



*Even if you're not violating any codes, it's just common courtesy to discuss your fence with your neighbors!*





# 2

## Prepare your yard for your new fence

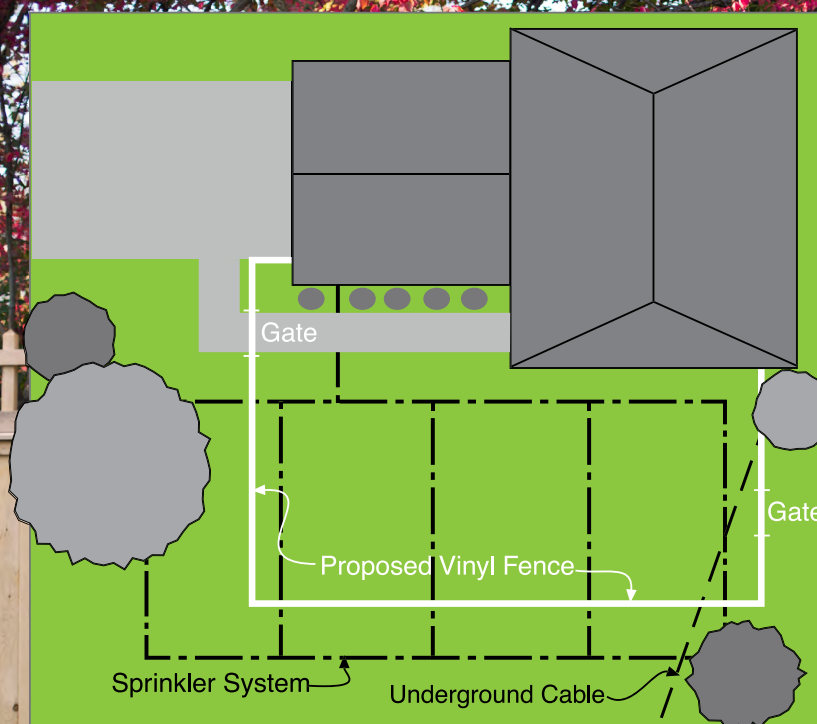
***Before you can accurately install a fence, you must first prepare your yard:***

### ***Locate underground utilities***

Ever dig right into a septic tank? It's not something you want to risk doing. Get your public utilities marked by contacting your state's utilities department.

### ***Remove obstructions***

Make sure to remove any object that will get in the way of your fencing. This is important and should be taken care of before measuring. If there is something like a swing set in your way, it could make getting an accurate measurement difficult.



***Next, you will need to mark and measure your yard for your new fence.***



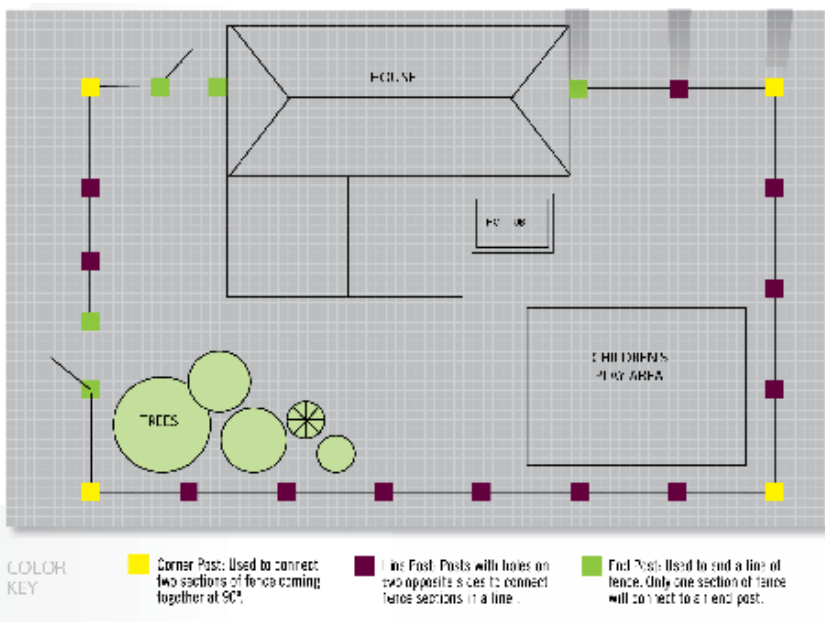


# 3

## Mark and measure your perimeter

**Have you heard the old adage:** Measure twice, cut once? When it comes to DIY fencing, double checking before acting can save a lot of trouble and frustration down the line. Make sure you know just how much material you need from the start to avoid headaches when you build your new fence. To mark your yard, you can buy stakes or posts to use as markers.

**Figure out how many panels you'll need:** Take your measurement of the perimeter, making sure the final number is in feet. Divide that number by 8 unless your panels are in a different measurement. If your panels are 6', divide your perimeter by 6. That is how many panels you will need.



**Mark corner posts:** Place a stake in each corner of your yard. Any place where two sections of fence will meet at a 90° angle needs a corner post.

**Mark line posts:** Confirm your panel size and place your line posts in that measure from your corner posts. This will most likely be every 6-8 feet. When there are sections of the yard less than that length, panels will need to be cut down.

**Mark end posts:** Does your fence have a gate? Mark your gate section with end posts. Any spot where your fence will end (such as at your house, a gate, or a tree) needs to be marked with an end post.

*You can use our Fence Project Workbook on page 14 to sketch out where your fence will go.*





# 4

## Install your new fence

Now that you've completed all the steps of preparation, it's time to install your new fence! Make sure you have everything you need—including an adequate amount of time—and if possible, an extra set of hands.

The process will differ depending on the type of fence and the materials you're using. However, if you're installing a picket fence, the basic steps are the same. This refers to any fence with vertical posts and horizontal rails, not just the classic picket fence you might imagine.

### 1 *String your perimeter*

Starting at one end of the fence, secure a stake in the ground and attach your nylon string. At the opposite end of that fence line, secure another stake and pull the string tight.

You will use this string line to install a straight line and to plumb/ level your posts.

### 2 *Mark and dig post holes*

Choose one fence line and mark the holes based on your fence panel lengths. We do not recommend you dig "all" your holes in advance. Dig holes 24" to 36" deep. Insert the post and plumb to your string line. Fill the hole with concrete. Be sure to fill all around your post.

Now you are ready to attach your fence section to your post.



*Use our Fence Installation Checklist on page 15 to take inventory of the tools you should have on hand.*





3

### ***Attach your fence panels to posts***

Connecting your panels will vary from one type of fence to another. **Wood panel fences** will be nailed to the post. **Wood rail fences** will simply insert into the post. **Vinyl fence panels** will have extended rails with locking tabs and will just click into the post. **Aluminum fence rails** are inserted into the post and then secured by a screw. Re-level all posts after attaching the fencing.

With vinyl fences, be sure to pull the rail back to the locking tab after inserting in the post. This will ensure a tight fit and reduce wind rattling.

4

### ***Attach the next post***

Now, attach the next post to the opposite end of your first fence panel. Secure the same way as above, fill the hole with concrete, and level.

***Repeat the process of attaching fence panels until the line is complete.***

5

### ***Finish the fence line***

In some cases, the last section may be shorter, and you may have to cut the fence panel to fit. Be sure to have the proper saw to cut each fence type.

6

### ***Attach the next post***

Measure your gate width and set your posts 1" wider than your gate (allow 3" for double gates). Attach your hardware to your gate, and then attach to the posts. That's it! You're almost done!

7

### ***Attach any post tops or top lights you've chosen.***

## ***Call for help if needed***

***If you've never installed a fence before, you may need some guidance. If at any point you find yourself in need of help, The Fence Authority is happy to take your call and provide the help you seek!***





Once your fence is installed, you can complete the final step: Enjoy your yard!



*Next to proper measurement, this is probably the most important step. You have just installed your own DIY fence. Now go enjoy the beauty and privacy of your fence!*





# My Fence Project Workbook



***Print this page and sketch out the area you want to enclose with your fence. Plot your posts, panels, and gates.***

<p><b>Type of Vinyl Fence:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Privacy   <input type="checkbox"/> Semi-Privacy <input type="checkbox"/> Picket   <input type="checkbox"/> Ranch Rail</p> <p><b>Style of Vinyl Fence:</b> _____</p> <p><b>Color of Vinyl Fence:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> White   <input type="checkbox"/> Cambium Cypress <input type="checkbox"/> Sand   <input type="checkbox"/> Cambium Red Cedar <input type="checkbox"/> Wicker</p> <p><b>Size of Vinyl Fence:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 4x8   <input type="checkbox"/> 5x8   <input type="checkbox"/> 6x8</p> <p>Qty of Panels: _____ Qty of Corner Posts: _____ Qty of Line Posts: _____ Qty of End Posts: _____</p> <hr/> <p><b>Type of Aluminum Fence:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Home   <input type="checkbox"/> Haven</p> <p><b>Style of Aluminum Fence:</b> _____</p> <p><b>Color of Aluminum Fence:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Black   <input type="checkbox"/> Metallic Pewter <input type="checkbox"/> White   <input type="checkbox"/> Wicker</p> <p><b>Size of Aluminum Fence:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 4x8   <input type="checkbox"/> 5x8   <input type="checkbox"/> 6x8</p> <p>Qty of Panels: _____ Qty of Corner Posts: _____ Qty of Line Posts: _____ Qty of End Posts: _____</p> <hr/> <p><b>Type of Gates Needed:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Walk   <input type="checkbox"/> Drive</p> <p><b>Material &amp; Style of Gate:</b> _____</p>	
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# Fence Installation Tool Checklist



*Always be prepared with the proper tools! Otherwise, you'll end up interrupting your project to run out to the store. You can print out this page and take it with you when you go shopping! Some of the basics you'll need include:*

## **Material Checklist:**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Flat head screwdriver</b>   | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Coarse gravel</b> (6" per post hole) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Circular or hand saw</b>  | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Clean Rags</b>                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Post hole digger</b>  | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Safety glasses</b>                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>High strength concrete</b><br>Ensure the concrete is appropriate for the fencing material. The average amount needed is 1 ½ bags per post hole. | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Line level</b>                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Water (for mixing concrete)</b>   | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Shovel</b>                           |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Rubber mallet</b>                    |





# Do you wish the DIY fence installation process could be even simpler?



***It's time to get off the fence and start transforming your yard!***

The Fence Authority offers ActiveYards EZ Fence 2 Go kits that make installation a breeze.

A new generation of do-it-yourself fence kits with easy self-assembly instructions make enclosing your back yard and garden an effortless task.

The Fence Authority offers the EZ Fence 2 Go system in both vinyl and aluminum. For those of you who are looking for a more rustic option, we also offer fences-to-go kits in wood. No matter the material you choose, our fence kits give you a wide range of options. Choose from a variety of styles, colors, heights, and material types to make your new fence a unique extension of your living space.

**You can order EZ Fence 2 Go DIY fence kits through our website or at one of our store locations. You can also stop in to one of our many locations and talk through your project with our team of experts. The Fence Authority also carries all the tools you will need for your installation—for rent and to buy. You can bring your Fence Project workbook with you to one of our showrooms and a fencing expert will discuss your plans with you.**



Have any questions?



*Not sure if DIY fencing is right for you?*

*Have any questions about the DIY process?*

*Want to talk about EZ Fence 2 Go?*

The Fence Authority is happy to answer any of these questions and more! Contact our Outdoor Living Experts to discuss your project.

