RICK'S
CUSTOM FENCING & DECKING

Chain Link Fence
a simple guide to a better fence

Tool Check List

- ☐ Marking Pencil
- ☐ String Line
- ☐ Tape Measure

- ☐ Post Hole Digger
- ☐ Come-A-Long
- ☐ Level

- ☐ Hacksaw
- ☐ ½" or ⁹⁄₁₆" Wrench
- ☐ Gloves

- ☐ Hammer
- ☐ Pliers

Where To Start

Find your property lines accurately by using plot or metal property pins. Wooden stakes may not always be precise. You can obtain plot maps from your builder or local city/county planning departments. If you're unable to locate the property lines, it's advisable to have your lot surveyed to avoid installing your fence on your neighbor's property.

1. Spacing the Post Properly

Fence posts are typically spaced around 10 feet apart. Divide each run into equal sections, aiming for approximately 10 feet per section. Try not to exceed 11 feet or go below 9 feet unless necessary.

Examples:
- For a 90-foot run, divide it into 9 equal sections, each 10 feet long.
- For an 88-foot run, divide 1056 inches by 9, resulting in approximately 117¼ inches or 9 feet 9¼ inches per section.
- For a 92-foot run, divide 1104 inches by 9, resulting in approximately 122¾ inches or 10 feet 3 inches per section.

Begin by setting the corner or end posts (Terminal posts) first. Stretch a string line from each corner or end post to ensure proper alignment of all posts in between. **(Figure 1)** Drive a stake approximately every 10 feet at the exact position where the post hole is to be dug. Take the time to measure and position the posts accurately. The appearance and structural integrity of the entire fence depend on the
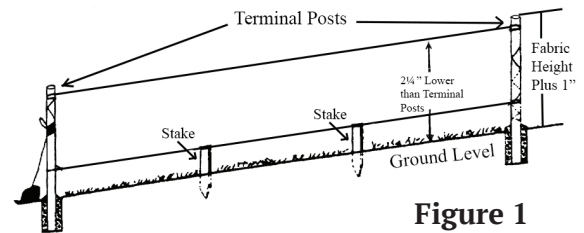

Figure 1

2. Setting the Fence Posts

All chain link fence posts should be set with approximately 2 feet buried in the ground. **(Figure 2)** Use a 6-inch post hole digger or auger to dig the holes straight to the proper depth and location.

String a line between the corners and the end posts, positioning it 2½ inches from the top. This ensures the top of the fence remains flat. **(Figure 3)** Running a string line and aligning all posts to it is recommended for ease and accuracy.

Set corner and end posts to the same height as the fence. This keeps the bottom of the fence close to the ground, deterring unwanted visitors. Pack the posts with concrete, ensuring concrete is applied along the sides but not under the posts. A helpful tip is to gently pack the concrete mix around the posts. "Dry" set all posts first, then water down each post several times with a garden hose until water stops disappearing into the concrete.

Typically, posts should be allowed to stand for several days to settle into position before completing the fence. However, small sections of the fence can be completed in one day. Simply wait until the fence is complete, re-level the posts, and then water down the concrete again.
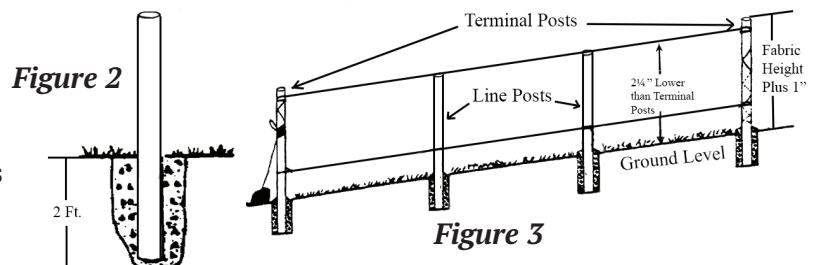

Figure 2

Figure 3

3. Installation of Fittings

Slide tension bands onto each terminal post (end, corner, or gate posts). Ensure the flat side of the tension band faces the outside or wire side of the post. Use approximately one tension band for every 1½ feet of the post height.

Place brace bands on terminal posts. Attach rail end fittings to brace bands, loosely bolting them together. Position eyetops on each line post, with the offset toward the wire side of the post.

Thread the top rail through the eyetop and into one rail end. If you need to join two lengths of top rail, simply slide one end over the swedged end of the top rail without needing a sleeve. Continue threading the top rail to the next terminal post.
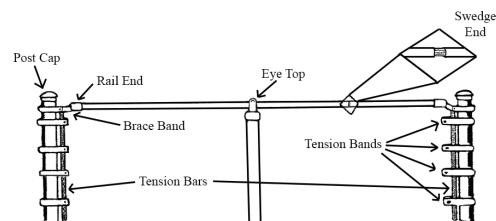
FIGURE 4

Cut the last length of top rail to fit tightly into the remaining end. Once the top rail is in position, securely tighten all brace bands and rail ends. Place post caps on all terminal posts. **(Figure 4)**

4. Installing the Wire Fence Fabric

Unroll the wire fence fabric along the wire side of the fence line. Insert a tension bar through the last vertical row of chain link wire closest to the terminal post. Stand the end of the chain link up and place the tension bar into the tension bands. Install 5/16" x 1¼" galvanized carriage bolts with the threads facing toward the inside of the fenced area. Tighten the bolts as needed to maintain the fabric at the proper height.

Unroll the chain link against the fence frame. Loosely secure the fabric to the top rail to hold it vertically as needed. To shorten or separate two sections, untwist the wire at the bottom end of the fabric at the desired location. **(Figure 5)** Loosen the wire at the top of the fabric and corkscrew it out to separate the two sections. To splice two sections, ensure you start with a complete diamond and half a diamond at the top of the fabric. Corkscrew the wire and needle it down through the ends of the sections. Twist the wire together at both ends and continue with fabric installation.

Use a Come-A-Long to stretch the fabric and remove slack. Attach it between a stretcher bar connected to the chain link vertically and the corner or end post. **(Figure 6)** Stretch the fabric taut and remove excess fabric at the terminal post. Insert the tension bar and attach it to the tension band. Tighten all tension bands securely. Use aluminum wire ties to tie the fabric to the fence frame. Raise the fabric to the desired level as you tie it to the top rail. Space the ties approximately 24 inches apart. Tie the fabric to each line post with at least three ties minimum. **(Figure 7)**
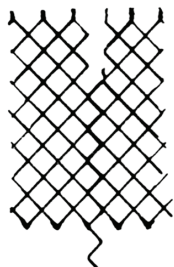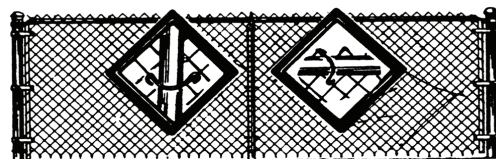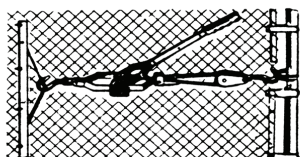
Figure 5

For hillside slopes, install the posts vertically on the slope while ensuring the chain link remains square. Insert the tension bars through the chain link parallel to the post and trim off the excess. Adjust the length of the posts proportionally longer depending on the slope angles.

Figure 6

Figure 7