# Aluminum Fence Installation Instructions

**Helpful Materials/Tools Recommended:**

- Stakes
- String
- Measuring Tape
- Rubber Mallet
- Post Hole Digger
- Level
- Concrete Mix
- Hacksaw
- Hex-Head Impact/Screw Driver

**<u>Before You Begin Installing Your Fence:</u>**

<mark>**** Make sure the fence is set back from the property line as required by local codes.*****</mark>

- Establish your fence line by staking out the area to be enclosed, and attaching a guide string to the stakes.

- Separate and identify your posts. There are three types of posts: Line, End/Gate, and Corner posts. The horizontal rails of the fence sections fit into the holes punched in the posts. Line posts have holes punched on opposite sides. Corner posts have adjacent sides punched. End posts have holes on only one side. A Gate post is the same as an End post but the post walls are twice as heavy to support the weight and latching of a gate.

- Gates and sections should be installed so that the bottom of the fence is about 2" above ground level.

- All screws in the fence sections and the posts should be installed on the same side (**normally facing the inside**) of the enclosed area.

- When you need less than a full section to complete a line of fence, cut it down to size using a hacksaw. Notch the cut ends of the horizontal rails so they will fit inside the post. Use a factory notch as a guide-line.

- Mix the concrete for the posts holes on the dry side to allow the posts to set faster and to give additional support when installing the fence sections.
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**<u>Fence Installation:</u>**

1. Install a pair of gate posts first. (If you don't have any gates, then start with an end or corner post.) Dig the post holes approximately 2.5x to 3x wider than the post (for 2" standard post, dig a 5" - 6" wide hole) that is 2' deep down in the ground, and set the posts into them. Fill the holes with concrete and tamp down around each post so the concrete is about 2" below ground level. The gate will be attached after the concrete has set. The opening between the posts should equal the size of the gate that was ordered. (i.e.: a 48" gate

fits into a 48" wide opening.)

Caution: The proper operation of the gate depends upon the correct installation of the gate posts.
Make certain that they are plumb.

2. Repeat this same procedure for all other gate posts that are not in the same straight line of fence. Gates that are in the same line will be installed when the fence reaches their location.

3. After the gate posts are set, the first line of fence should be installed. Dig up to 8 holes for the line posts along the fence line that are spaced apart 6' on center. If you reach an end or corner of the fence line, then dig the post hole where it's needed. To install the fence, slide the horizontal rails of a panel section into the punched holes of the post installed in as far as the notched end of the rails will allow. Place a line post into the next post hole, and slide the line post onto the horizontal rails of the section as far as possible. Pour concrete around the line post. Check that the post is level and aligned with the guide string. Tamp it down to hold the post in position. Leave the concrete about 2" below ground level.

4. When you have 6 – 8 sections installed, align the fence by sighting along the top horizontal rails. When correctly aligned, the rails will appear to be one continuous line. Also, the posts will appear to be one when viewed from the end of the fence line. Continue in this manner until all fence sections are installed. Use your level to check that each top rail and post is level for every section.

Caution: Do not overtighten the self-drilling screws -  If you use a impact hex-head driver, adjust the clutch setting down to prevent the screws denting the posts.

5.   Fill in the top of the post holes with dirt, tamp, and replace grass.


## Gate Installation:

Install your gates LAST, after all sections have been installed. This will allow proper time for the concrete set around the gate posts installed on step #1. Proper installation will result in approximately a ½" to ¾" space between the gate and each of the gate posts.

1.   Before fastening the hinges, decide how the gate will be mounted and how it will open. If the gate will be hinged on the left and open towards you, mount the hinges so that the hinge springs are on top. The springs must also be on top if the gate will be hinged right and open away from you. If you want the gate to open the other way, then the hinge springs must be on the bottom.

2.   Attach each hinge to the gate post using three of the self-drilling screws provided. The post mounting plate attaches to the post on the inside of the gate opening. Next, fasten the gate to each hinge using four more screws. Mount one hinge near the top rail of the gate and the other near the bottom rail to distribute the weight of the gate evenly. Make sure the hinges line up with each other to prevent them from binding. The gate should now swing freely.

3.   Mount the latch according to its specific instructions provided with the latch.

4.   With the hinges and latch now mounted, you may have to adjust the spring tension in the hinges to allow the gate to close and latch by itself. The hinge tension set at our factory allows most gates to work properly. To change the tension, follow the specific instructions provided with the hinge.