bradford fencing

Your guide to
Building a Fence

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fencing.net

A fence can be a great investment for your home. **When installed correctly,** i**t can provide peace of mind and safety.** Here's a guide that will *help* you through the installation process.

Step 1

What's the 'Why' behind your fence?
Many people will start with the type or style of fence they would like rather than the need the fence is meeting. This is important because there are aspects of each fence that may or may not align with your needs and wants. Clarify the purpose the fence is going to serve for you and your family.

Step 2

Check with your city (or municipality) and your Home Owner's Association as to whether there are restrictions or specifications allowed or permissible.

Step 3

Select a style of Fence:

- Privacy
- Horizontal
- Ornamental
- Semi-Private
- Board on Board
- Capped
- Scalloped
- Arched
- Picket
- Pool Fencing
- Ranch Style Fencing

Step 4

Determine the following:

1. Best material for your desired style*
2. The height of your fence
3. Number of gates (and size of those gates)

*Materials include:

- Steel
- Aluminum
- Vinyl
- Composite
- Wood (Pine, Cedar)
- Chain Link
- Wire
- Cable

Step 5

Locate your property lines.

Step 6

Choose where your fence will start and stop.

Step 7

Get exact measurements of your fence area.

Step 8

Calculate the amount of material needed.

Step 9

Purchase materials.
(Note: Remember to think through where you can safely store your materials during construction).

Step 10

Call 811 to have all your public utilities marked (Electric, Cable/Fiber Optic, Internet, Telephone, Gas, Water, Sewer, etc.)
(Note: this will be only for public utilities.)

Step 11

Determine if you have any private utilities, such as:

- Electric, Water & Gas Lines
- Sprinkler Lines and Sprinkler Heads
- Septic Tanks and Septic Lines
- Electric, Water &/or Gas Lines run to outbuilding, garages, etc.
- Lines running from Propane Tanks, Solar Panels or any other energy sources on your property

Remember: Any such private utilities will NOT be located by 811; they are your responsibility to determine where they run and to avoid them when digging.

Step 12

Purchase wood or metal stakes, string, a hammer, tape measure, measuring wheel, 100'-300' tape measure, and marking paint to...

...layout your fence location.
*(**Note:** Make sure when you stake off and string out your fence line that **you are within your property lines***)*

Step 13

Once you have the fence line strung up, then mark the starting points, corners, gate locations, and all post locations with marking paint.
Note: Accurately measure and mark out gate and posts locations to avoid problems later on with fitting your fence sections and gates to your posts that are set.

Step 14

Dig post holes and clean out all excess dirt.
*Note: Make sure that your holes are the correct depth for your fence style. **Hole depth is one of the most important factors in building a sturdy, long lasting fence.***

Step 15

Once you've determined that your holes are deep enough, make sure that your post holes are wide enough and shaped properly.

Step 16

Lay out all your posts for your fence.

Step 17

Layout your concrete for your posts.

Step 18

Level and set all your posts in concrete.

Step 19

Once concrete is poured, clean up concrete bags and any tools used for pouring concrete.

Step 20

Roll up your string lines and pick up your stakes.

Step 21

Back fill your hole with good dirt around your post.
*Note: Be careful not to touch or move posts & **DO NOT pack dirt around posts**, just gently spread it around posts.*

Step 22

Double check level & straightness of posts.

Step 23

Clean up or spread out any excess dirt from your holes.

Step 24

Pick up any remaining trash or debris.

Step 25
Load up all tools & diggers.

Step 26
Line out the top line of your fence. *Reminder: This is a CRUSIAL part* of *having a good looking, yet functional fence.* **This step can make or break the fence.**

Step 27
Allow the concrete to fully cure before putting stress or strain on your posts.

Step 28
Once your concrete is set, typically 24 - 48 hours after, you are ready to build your fence.

Step 29
Install your gates and gate hardware.

Step 30

Clean up the fence and inspect your work area.

Step 31

You may need to check with your city permitting office to see if you need to schedule a final inspection or do anything to complete the permit process.

Step 32

Enjoy your newly installed fence!

Prefer to let someone else install your fence?

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