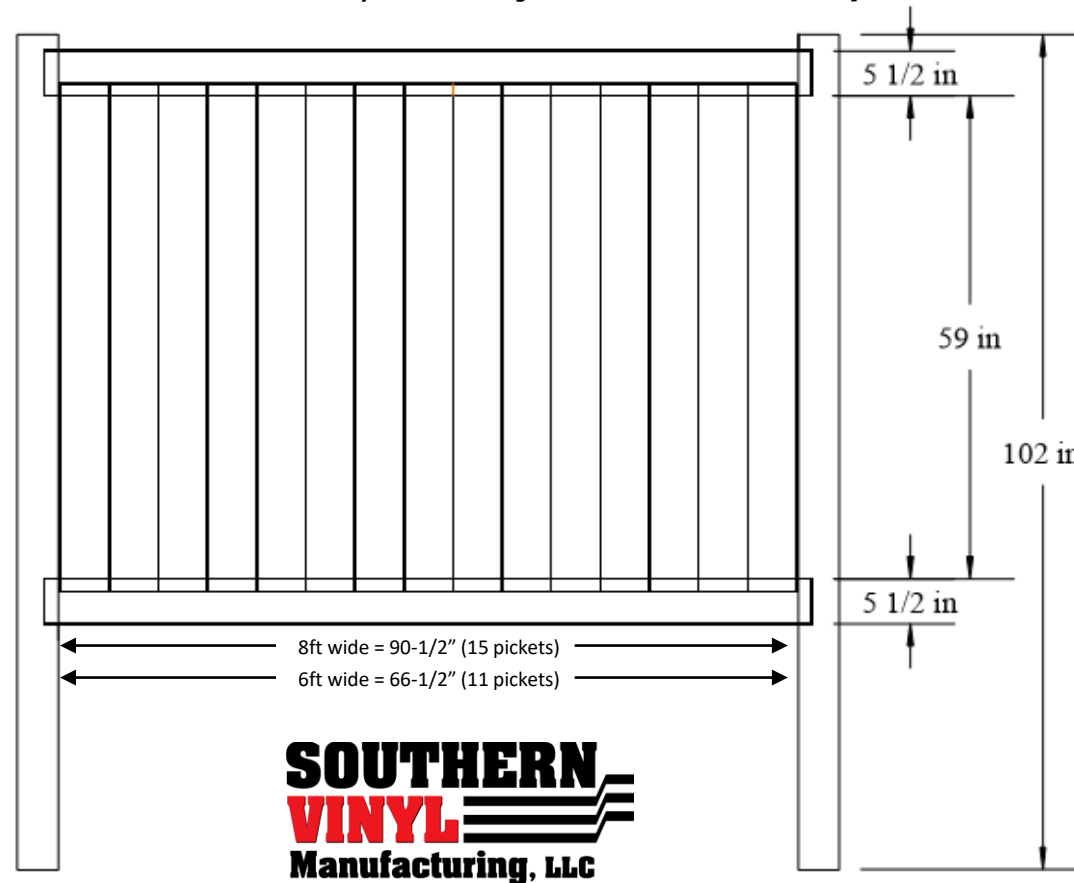# Installation Guide – Privacy Fence

This is one of many methods to install privacy fence, suggested by a certified member of the AFA (American Fence Association) with 15+ years of installation experience.

This guide is to help you install your Southern Vinyl Privacy Fence. Please read thoroughly before beginning your project.

There are many methods to install a vinyl fence. Please note that this is only a guide for installing your fence system. Following this guide does not make Southern Vinyl liable for any damage to materials or any failures to your fence system.

ATTENTION

Make sure you have located your property lines so as not to encroach on neighboring properties.

Make sure you check all zoning and HOA regulations before starting your project.

Make sure to locate and mark ALL underground utilities before starting your project. Call 811 to have utilities located

5 1/2 in

59 in

102 in

5 1/2 in

8ft wide = 90-1/2" (15 pickets)
6ft wide = 66-1/2" (11 pickets)

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Things to remember

Southern Vinyl's standard fence systems are designed for flat terrain. If there are major fluctuations in the grade of your property, alterations may need to be made to the fence system to accommodate them.

Always remember to keep your vinyl fence pieces on a soft, non-abrasive surface. Concrete and metal may cause significant scratches to your materials.

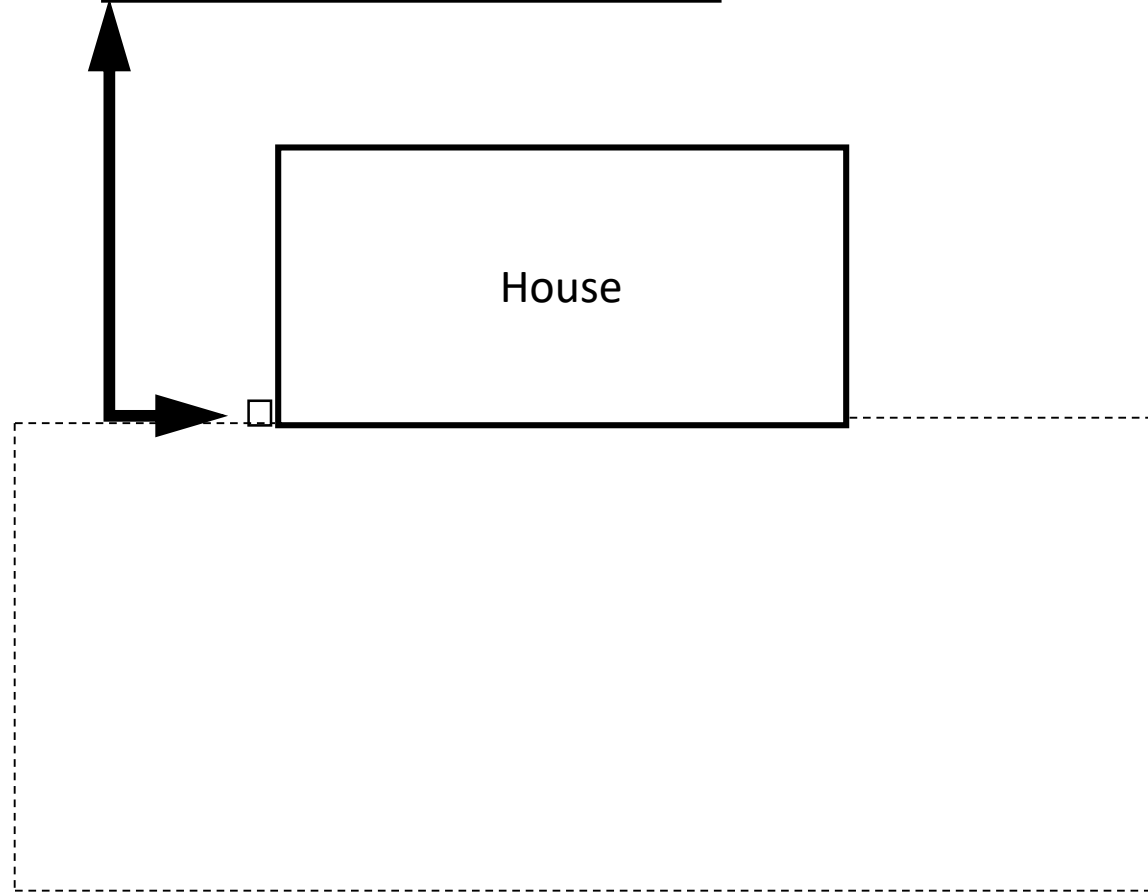When using PVC glue, be prepared and work fast as it sets very quickly.

It is always a good idea to lay out your materials before starting to ensure proper placement and that you have everything required to finish the project .

Required tools & Materials

Tape Measure
Pencil
Post Hole Digger or Auger
Shovel
Hammer
Rubber Mallet
Drill
Screws
Circular Saw
Level
String
Stakes
Tape
PVC Glue
Concrete
Wheel Barrel
Cleaning Cloth

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House

Holes should be dug approximately
10" around and at least 24"to 30" deep.

Posts should be set so that there is 2" from the bottom of the bottom rout to the ground. On this 6' high fence that would make the measurement from ground to the top of the post 74"

You may run into the concrete foundation or footer of your house. If this happens, it may be necessary to cut the bottom of the post off so that it sits on the footer and then attach the post to the house using the proper screw or fastener.

Going through the routed hole in the post, drill and screw the back side of the post to the house.

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Step 3:
Use your level to plumb the post in both directions.

Step 4:
Once you have the desired height of the post and it is plumb, fill the hole with concrete.
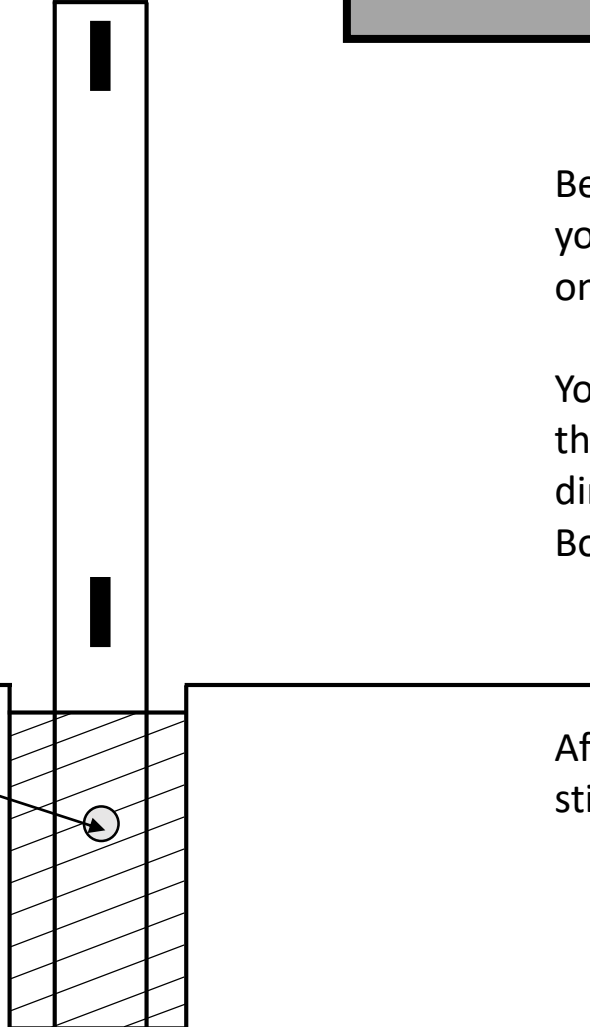
Fill the hole with concrete to within 2" of the top of the hole. Leave room to be able to finish off with dirt allowing for grass to grow back.

Be sure that the bottom of the post does not move once you begin adding concrete. Evenly distribute the concrete on all sides of the post.

You can either mix the concrete with water first and fill the hole with a shovel, or you can pour the concrete mix directly into the hole dry, then spray with water later. Both methods are acceptable.

*For added strength, drill a 2-3" hole(s) in the bottom of the post to allow concrete to flow inside the post.

After pouring the concrete, check to make sure the post is still plumb and make necessary adjustments if needed.
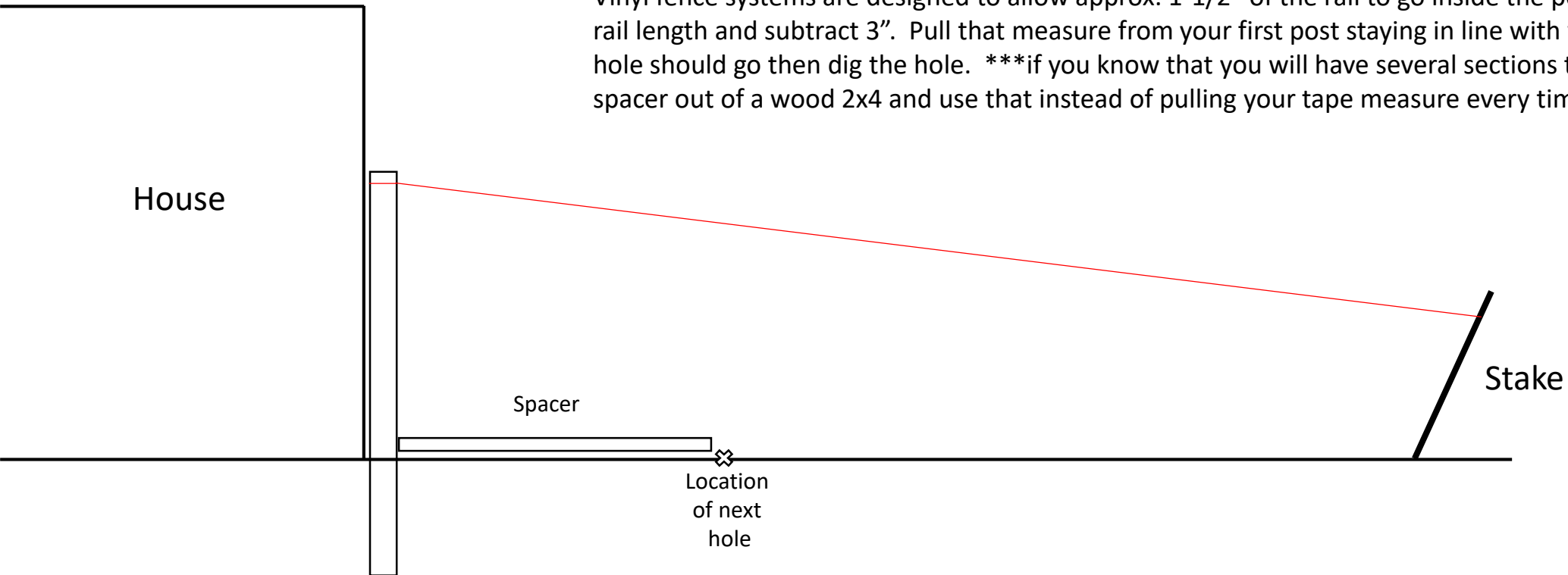
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Step 5:
Wrap a string around the post. Run the string in the direction of the fence line. Drive a stake in the ground at least 24" past where the last post in this line will be and attach the string line to the stake. Make sure to pull the string very tight.

Step 6:
Determine this distance from the first post to the next post in line and dig a hole.

At this point it will be very important to measure your rails to know the distance to the next post. All Southern Vinyl fence systems are designed to allow approx. 1-1/2" of the rail to go inside the post on each end. Take your rail length and subtract 3". Pull that measure from your first post staying in line with your string. Mark where the hole should go then dig the hole. ***if you know that you will have several sections that are the same size, cut a spacer out of a wood 2x4 and use that instead of pulling your tape measure every time.

House

Stake

Spacer

Location
of next
hole

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Step 7:
Plumb the post in all directions and add concrete.

Make sure that the post is plumb just as it touches the spacer, or the desired measurement on your tape measure

Spacer

You will also need to make sure that the post is plumb from front to back when it just touches the string line. This ensures that all posts in this fence line are in a perfectly straight line.

Make sure that the post is set an inch or two higher than the finished height of the first post. These will be adjusted when the line is all set.

Fill the hole with concrete, making sure that the bottom of the post does not move. Leave 2" of room below grade to fill with dirt, same as before.
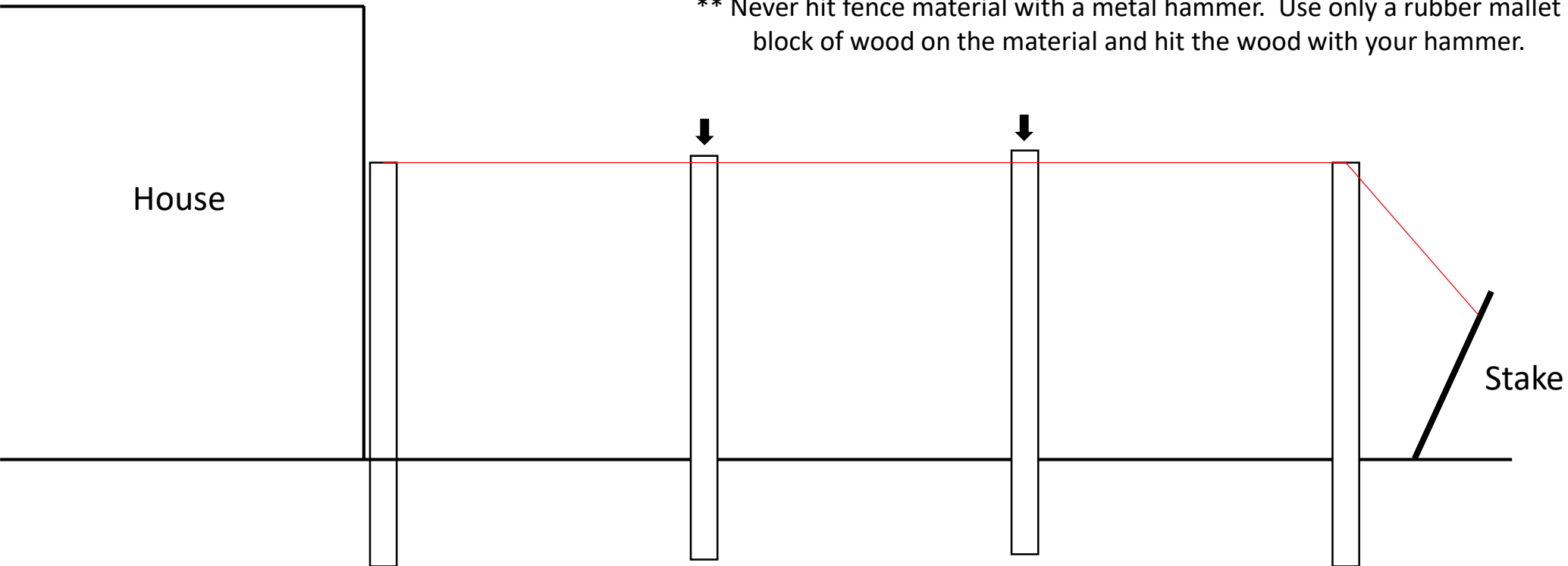
Repeat these post setting procedures until you have set all posts in the fence line.

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Step 7:
Set the height of the fence posts.

Once all post in the line are set, make sure the last post in the line is set to the same height off the ground as the first post. In this case, the height was 74". Move the string to the top of first post and the last post in the fence line. Use duct or electrical tape to secure the string to the top of the post. Use a rubber mallet, or a hammer and a block of wood and tap all the other posts in the line down until the top of the post and the string are even. * Make sure the string is pulled very tight to prevent sagging.

** Never hit fence material with a metal hammer. Use only a rubber mallet or place a block of wood on the material and hit the wood with your hammer.
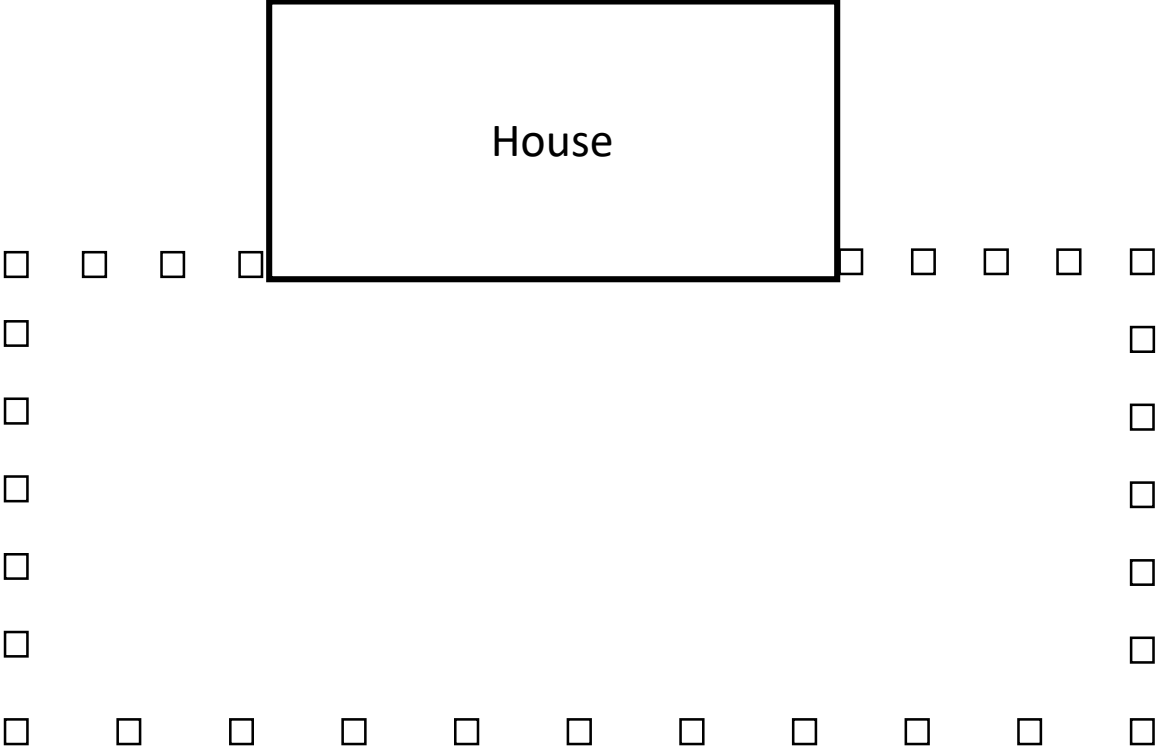
House

Stake

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Step 8:
Repeat this process until all posts in all fence lines are set.

When all the posts are set, go back and double check that all posts are still plumb.

Wet the concrete if you poured it dry. Let the posts sit over night, unless you have used a concrete with a fast-drying agent in it. Once the concrete begins to dry, you don't want to move or bump the posts in any way. This can cause the concrete to break away from the post. This can cause failure to the fence system by weakening the structural integrity of the post.
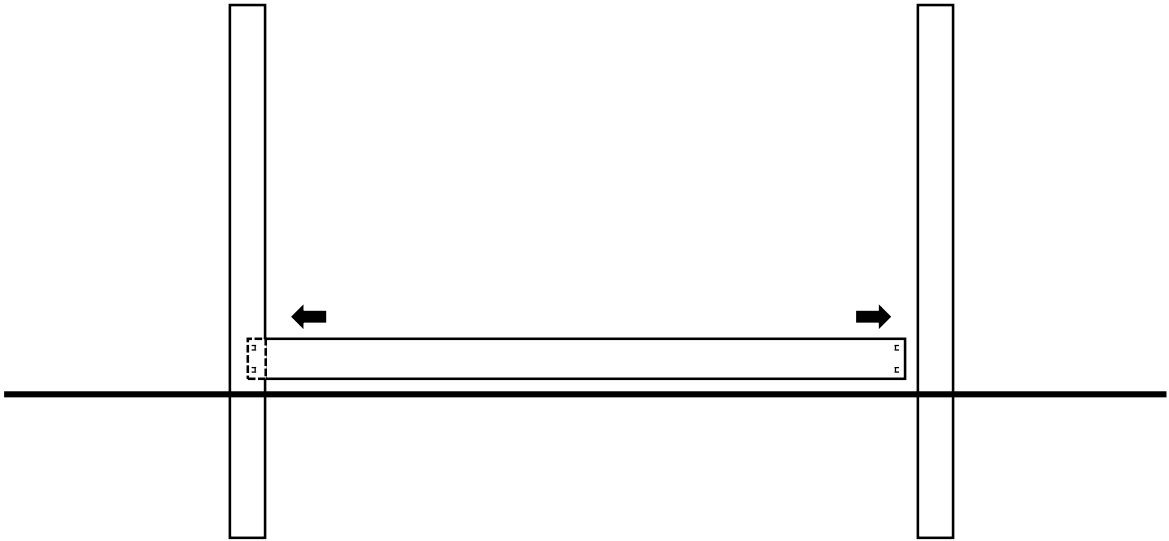
House

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Keep in mind that the ground is not "level". Even if you have a flat yard, chances are that it is not "level". You should be setting your fence so that the top follows the lay of the land. If you attempt to set your fence "level" you could start at one end of the fence line at the correct height and by the time you reach the other end of the line your fence could be inches to feet off of or into the ground, due to grade changes that the eye does not perceive.

You can measure, mark, and dig all the holes for your fence line at one time if you are certain of their placement. This can be difficult to do accurately, and a slight miscalculation could cost you time having to shave the edges of your hole to correctly place your posts.

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Now that your fence posts are set, and you have allowed ample time for the concrete to dry, you are ready to begin assembling your fence panels.
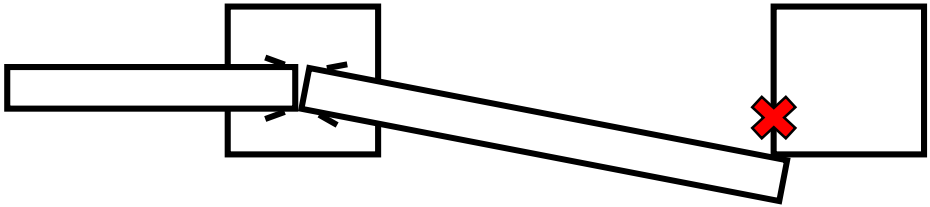
Step 1:
Locate and insert the bottom rail into the bottom holes of your posts.
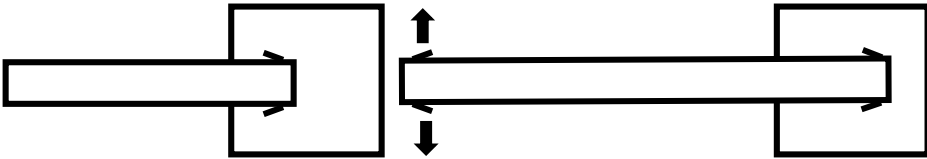
On an 8ft wide panel, the bottom rail will have an aluminum insert inside the rail to help prevent your fence panel from sagging in the middle over time. 6ft wide panels do not require an aluminum insert. Insert one end of the rail into the bottom hole of one of your fence posts. Ensure that the notches on the rail that prevent it from falling out of the rout are completely inserted into the post. Push the rail far enough in, so that you can freely insert the opposite end of the rail into the next post, ensuring that the notches are completely inserted into the post.

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It is helpful to insert the rail into the leading post first so that you have ample room inside the post to be able to insert the rail into the opposite post. If you start with the previous post, there is potential that the rails will hit preventing you from having the clearance that you will need to get your rail into the next post.
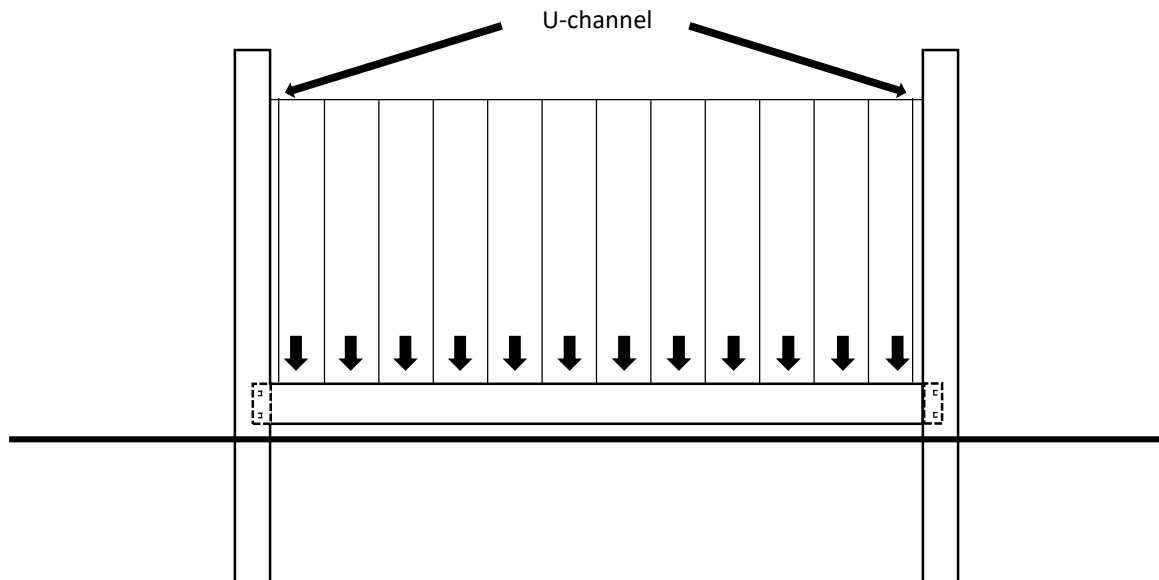
Notice that the rail does not have the room to clear the leading post to be able to insert the rail into the post.

By inserting the rail into the leading post, there is ample room to clear the rear post to be able to insert the rail into the post.

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Step 3:
Insert you tongue and groove pickets into the bottom rail.

U-channel

Insert your T&G pickets into the bottom rail. Make sure that the tongue from the first picket is inserted into the groove of the next picket. These pickets are meant to interlock with one another to provide stability and added wind resistance.

Remember to put one (1) piece of u-channel on each picket that butts directly up against your fence post.

Southern Vinyl Privacy fence systems are designed to use one (1) less picket than two times the length of the panel. I.E. if panel is supposed to be an 8ft panel

$$2 \times 8ft = 16$$
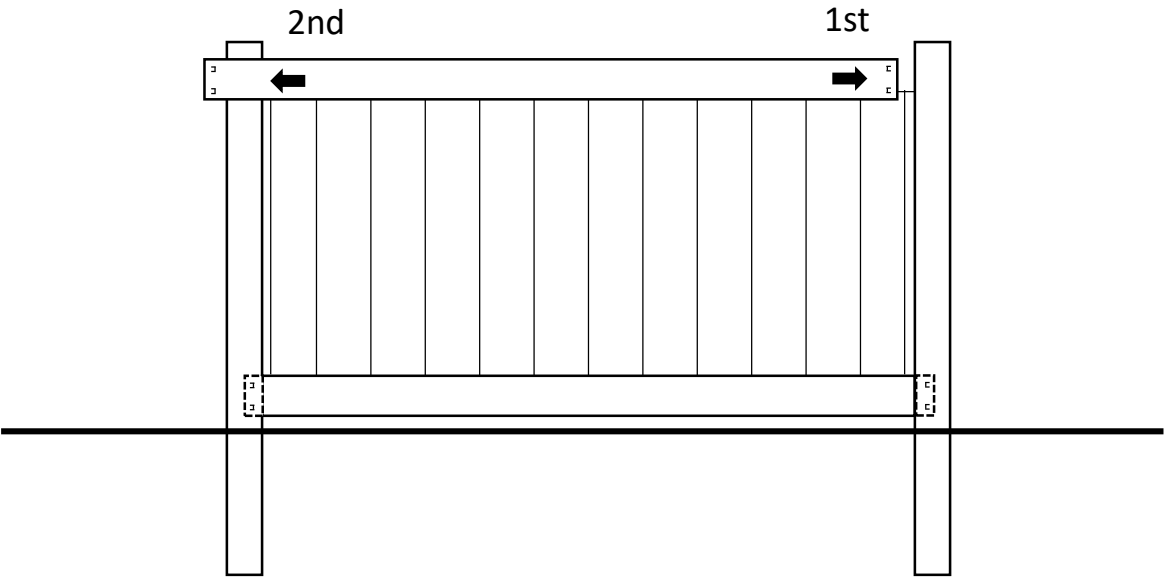$$\underline{-1}$$
$$15 \text{ pickets needed}$$

If for any reason the fence posts were set closer together than required for your panel, you will need to rip a picket to finish off the panel. You can cover the ripped side of the picket with the provided piece of u-channel.

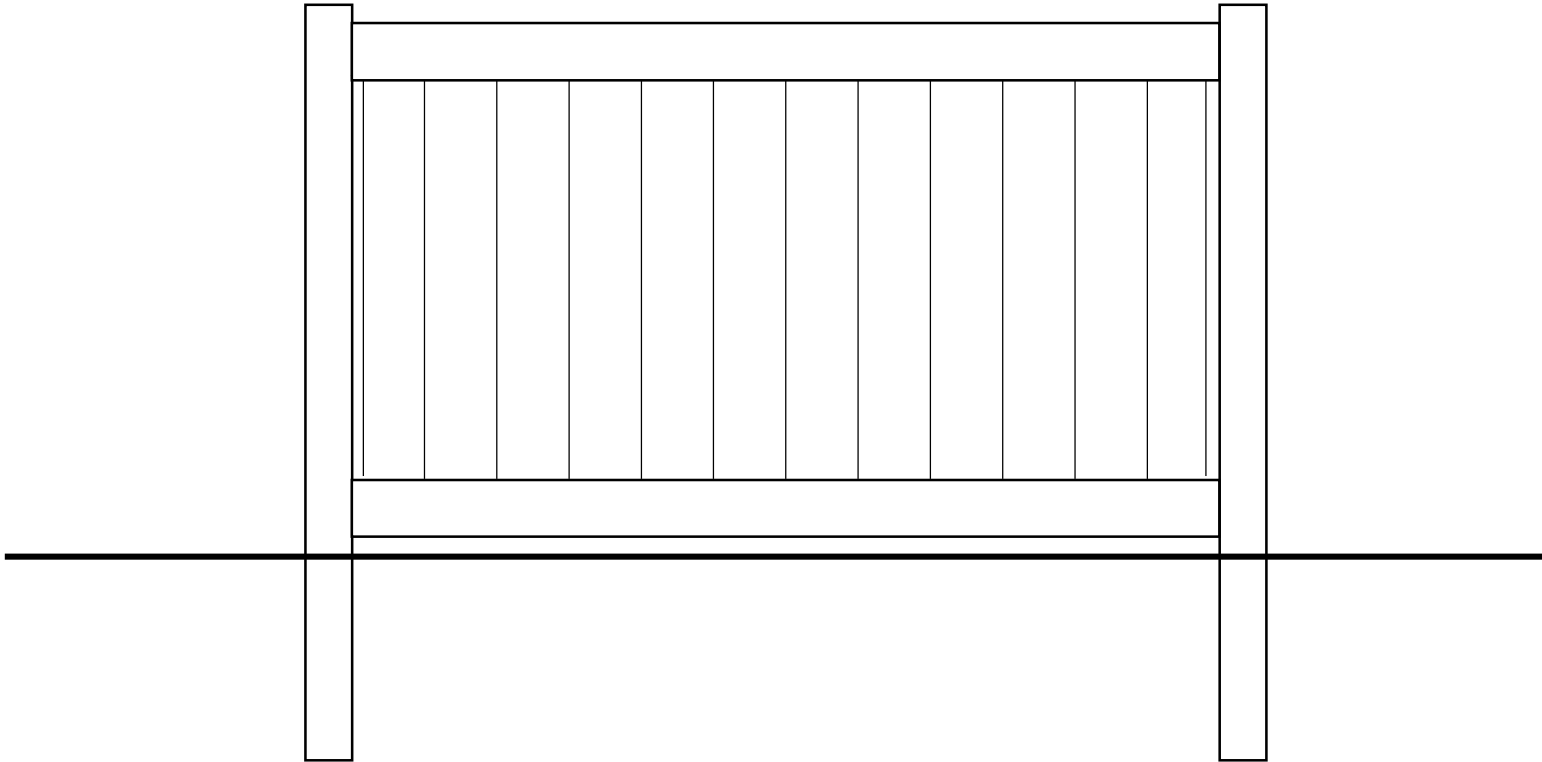**SOUTHERN VINYL**
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Step 4:
Placing the top rail.

Once you have your pickets in place, lean them forward slightly to allow you to put the top rail on the top of the pickets as pictured. Once in place, slide the rail across the pickets and insert the end of the rail into the post. Do this in the same manner as the bottom rail, working towards the leading post and allowing the trailing end of the rail to clear the previous post so that it may be inserted into the rout.
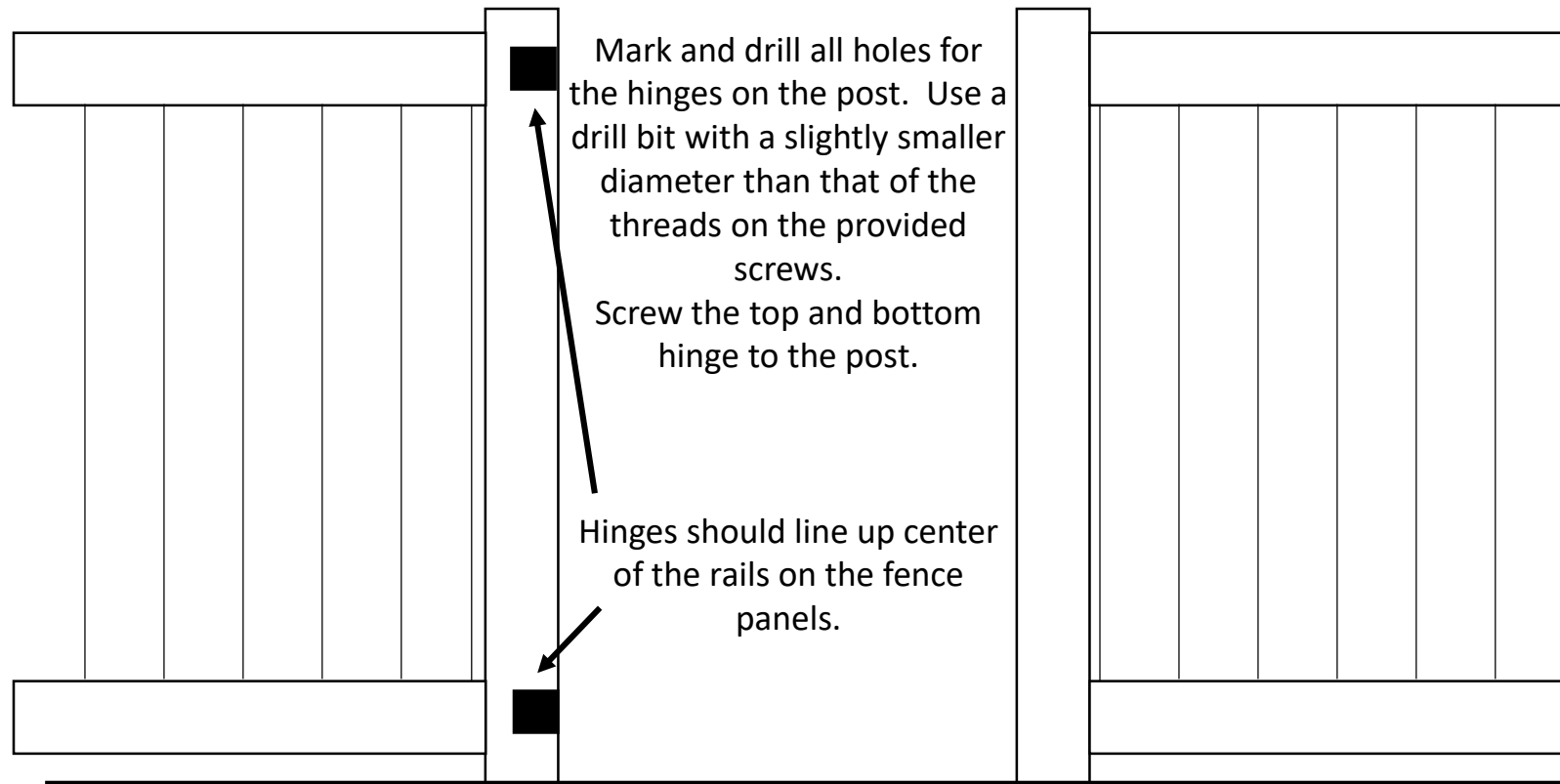
2nd   1st

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You now have a finished fence panel.
Continue following these steps until all
panels are fully assembled.

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Gate Installation

Mark and drill all holes for the hinges on the post. Use a drill bit with a slightly smaller diameter than that of the threads on the provided screws.
Screw the top and bottom hinge to the post.

Hinges should line up center of the rails on the fence panels.
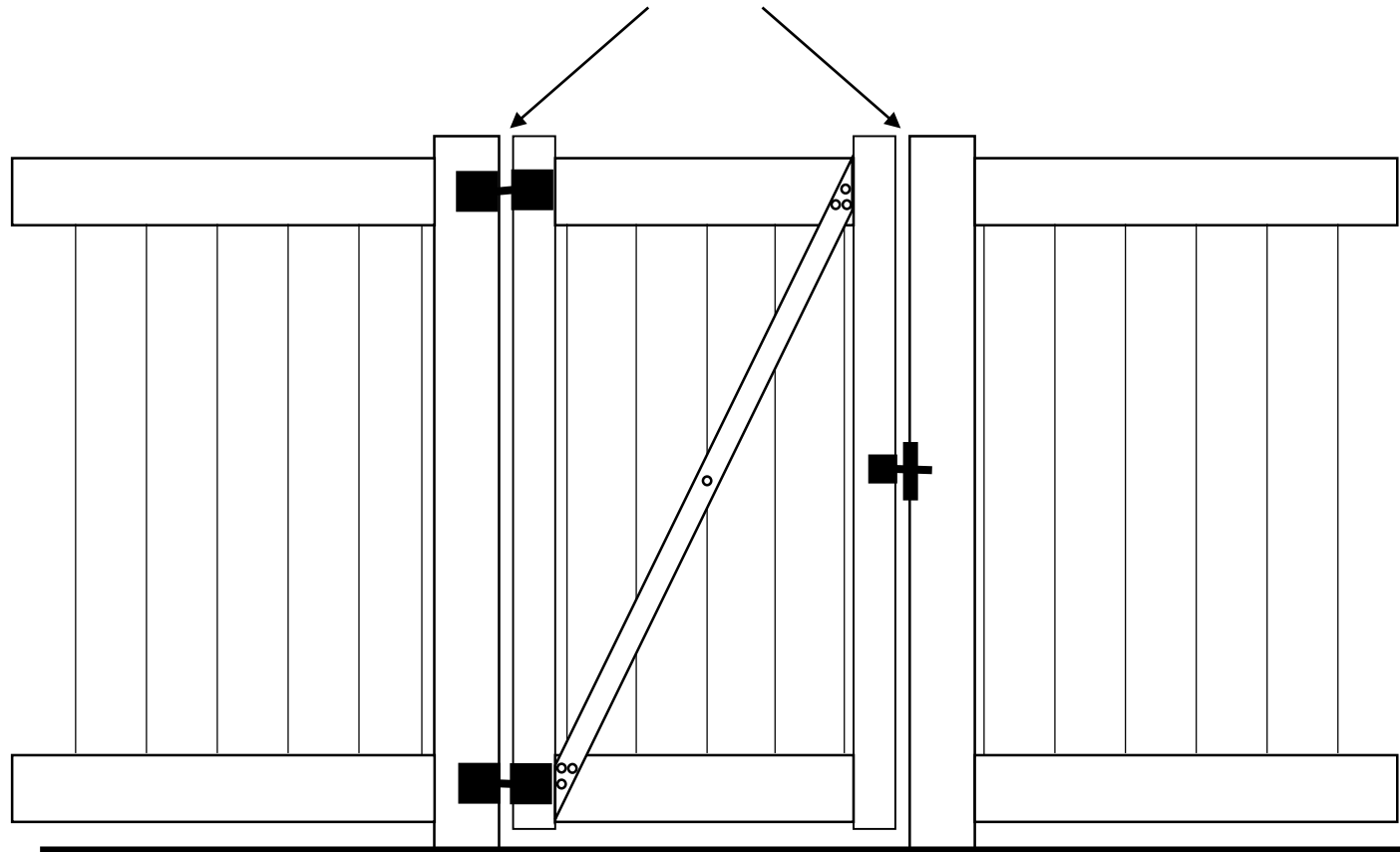
It is time to install the gate(s)
Make sure that you have a post stiffener inside the hinge side of the gate to help support the weight of the gate.
A hollow vinyl post does not offer enough structural integrity to hold the weight of the gate by itself.

Aluminum post inserts can/should be purchased from Southern Vinyl to ensure proper gate installation.

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If the opening for the gate has been set correctly there should be approximately ¾" to 1" of room on either wide of the gate to allow for the hardware to be installed.

This next step may require 2 people as it is necessary to lift the gate in place so that the tops of the post and the gate upright are aligned. Once aligned, mark and drill all holes for the hinges on the gate upright. Screw the hinge to the gate.

Make necessary adjustments in the hinge to ensure the gaps between the gate uprights and fence posts are even from top to bottom of the gate.

Next, mark and drill the placement for the latch on the fence post. This should be approximately centered between the top of the post and the ground. Screw the latch to the post. Now center the pin in the latch, mark and drill holes for the pin in the gate upright. Screw the pin to the gate upright.

The gate should always be hung with the bottom of the cross brace on the hinge side of the opening. Its purpose is to help hold UP the weight of the free hanging side of the gate.

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