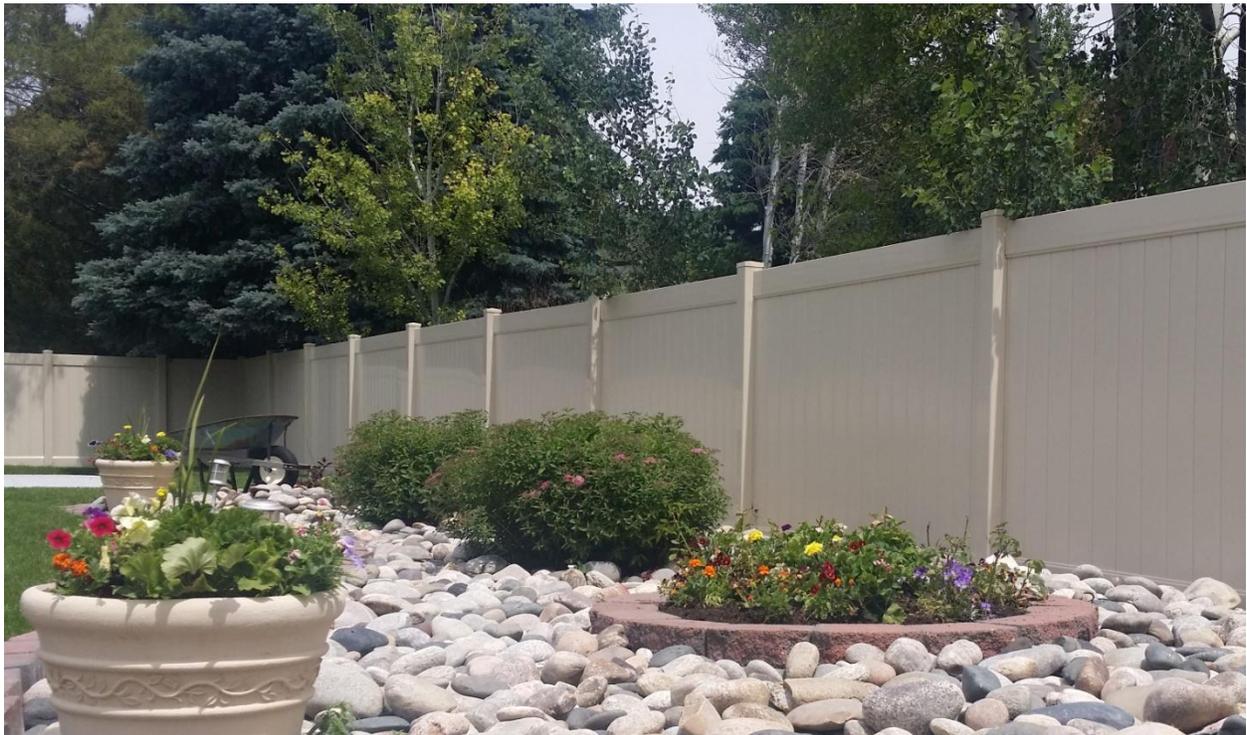




Tongue & Groove Privacy Fence Installation Guide



Preliminary Steps Before Installing Your Fence

Discuss your plans with any neighbors whose property lies along your fence line to make sure your fence will be on your property. **Locate your property pins.**

Check for easements in your deed. An easement is a right-of-way granted to another property owner or utility company, which may limit the design and location of your fence.

Confirm the location of underground utilities with local providers before you dig. **Call 811.**

Check local zoning laws, which may regulate the size and placement of your fence. If you live in an historic district or a subdivision, check with your neighborhood association before proceeding with your plans.



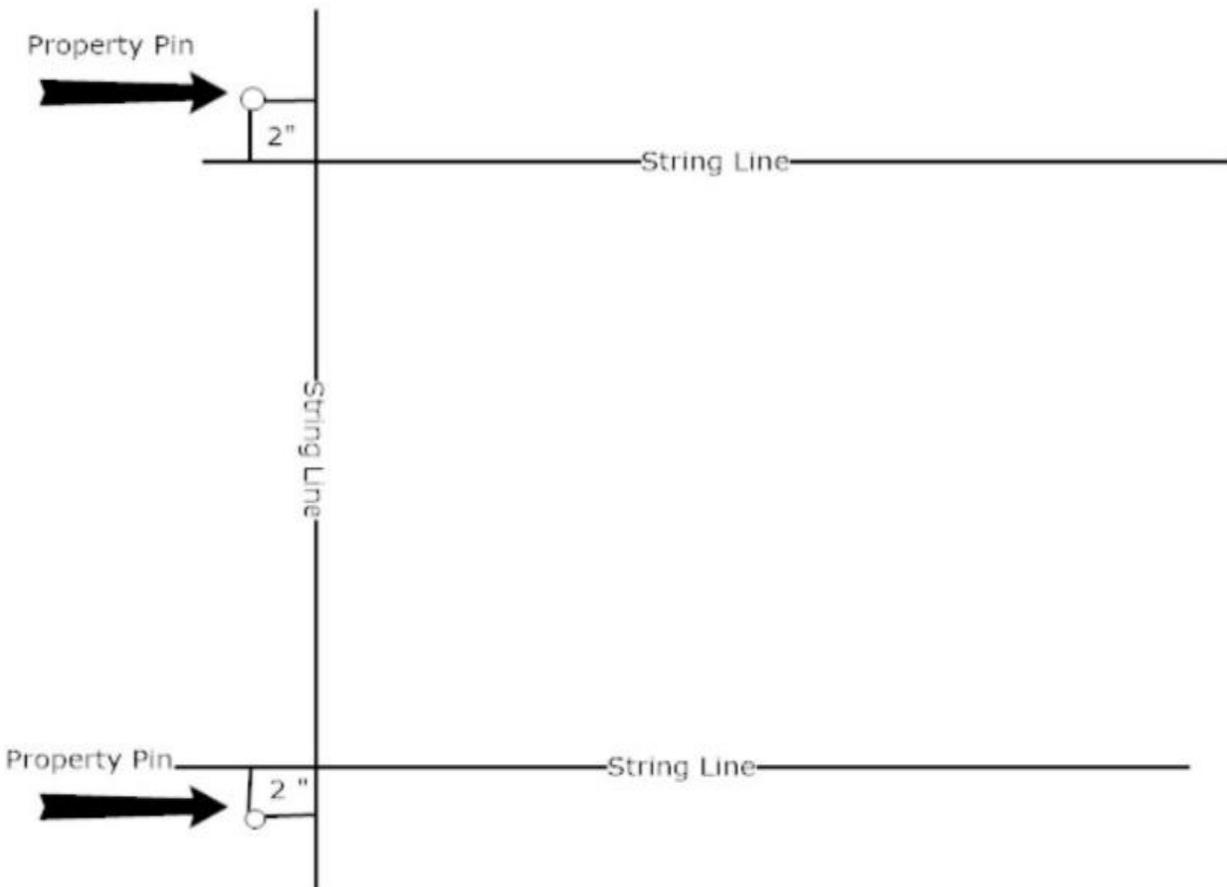
Getting Started

Setting up a String Line

The first step in determining the fence layout is to walk the fence line. Make certain there are no obstacles and look for any changes in the terrain that will need to be accommodated.

Next, stake out the fence line. Place stakes and string (a minimum of) 2" away from the property pins. This insures the fence will be on your property. See *Diagram 1*. The string line should be as low as possible without any obstructions.

Diagram 1

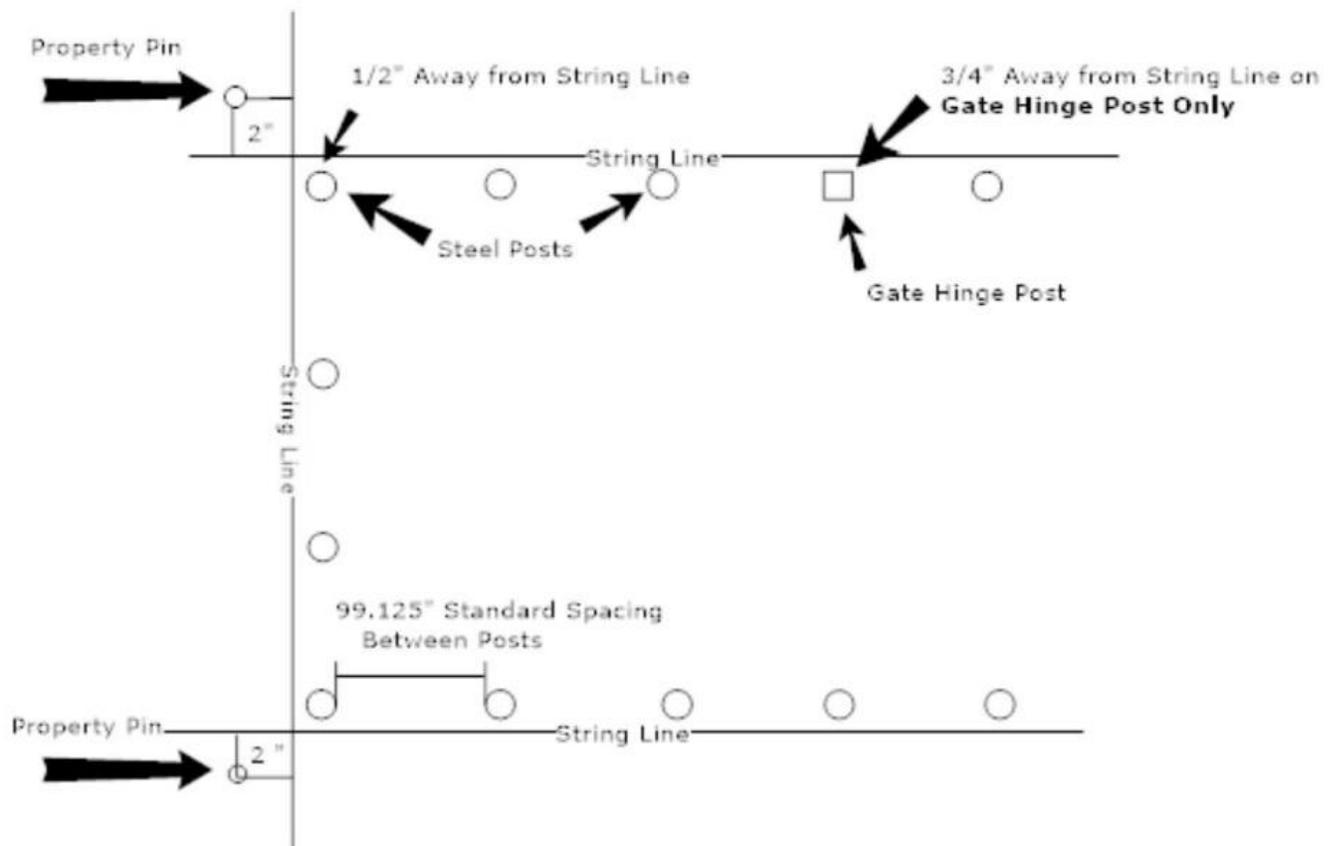


Installing the Steel Posts

Before installing the steel posts, three spring-loaded clips need to be placed on each of the $1\frac{7}{8}$ " circle post. See *Diagram 3*. They all need to be facing the same way with the dog-ears pointing downwards (the clips hold the vinyl posts on the steel post). At this point, the clips are placed on the steel posts before they are pounded down because of the mushrooming effect of the post pounder. The clips are positioned in the middle of the steel post to assure they are out of the way of the post pounder.

Next, the steel posts are staged throughout the fence line. (roughly 8' apart). There needs to be a circle steel post for every vinyl post that is going to be put in. The gate **hinge** post is the only exception. This posts require a square $2''\times 2''\times 10'$ steel post. See *Diagram 2*.

Diagram 2



Drive the steel posts into the ground, keeping them ½” away from the string line, keep roughly plumb (just use your eye).

The standard spacing between two steel posts is 99 1/8”.

We recommend a 1” x 4” x 99 1/8” board for a spacer. Because of the direction of the clips, the vinyl to vinyl spacing ends up to be 96”.

The square hinge post for the gate does not need clips. Keep it ¾” away from the string line (all the circle posts are ½” away from the string line).

After all the steel posts are pounded into the ground, they need to be accurately plumb (torpedo level). The clips need adjusting to be out of the way of the rail inside the vinyl post. The bottom clip is about 12” above the ground, the middle clip is about 36” above the ground, and the top clip is about 60” above the ground.

Diagrams 3 & 4 show a clip layout for the vinyl posts.

Placing on the Vinyl Post

After all the steel posts are plumb and the clips are set, the vinyl posts can be placed on. Because of the steel post, the vinyl posts have an offset route for the rails. See *Diagram 3*.

The top of the post has a 2” space (from the top route to the top of the post) and the bottom has 5”. The extra material on the bottom allows for variables in ground height.

The vinyl posts also need to be facing the right direction. Direct the offset route so the rails will be closer to the property line. *Diagram 4* illustrates what kind of vinyl post needs to be placed on each steel post (line, left end, right end, corner, or blank post).

Gateposts need to be as tight to the corner of the hinge side as it can.

5" x 5" Post Layout

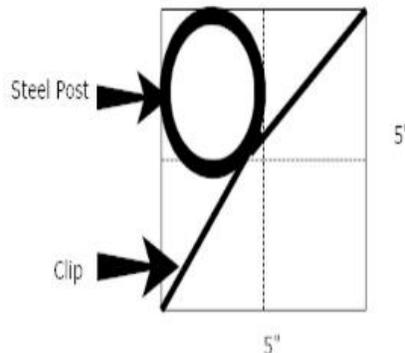


Diagram 3

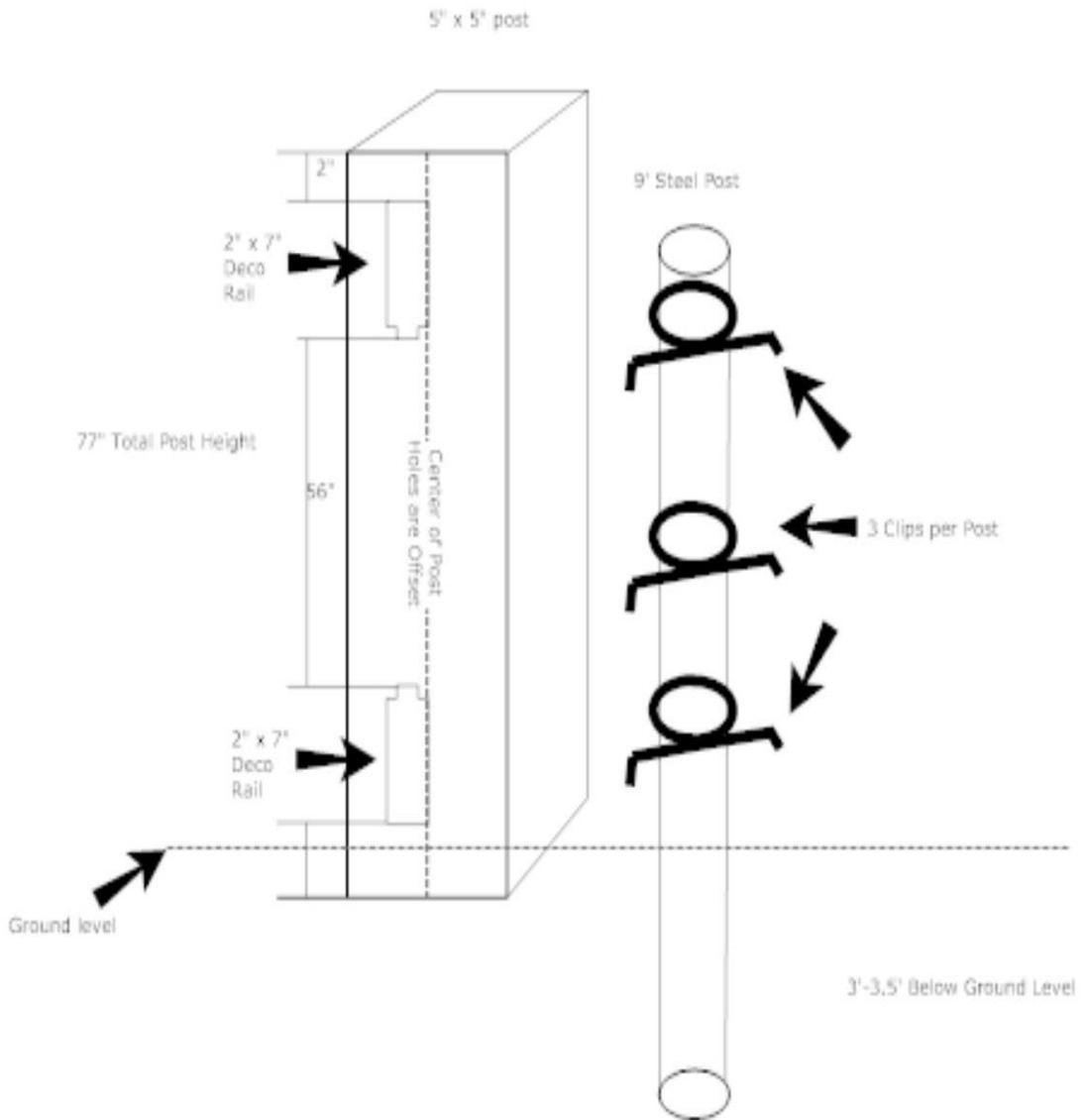
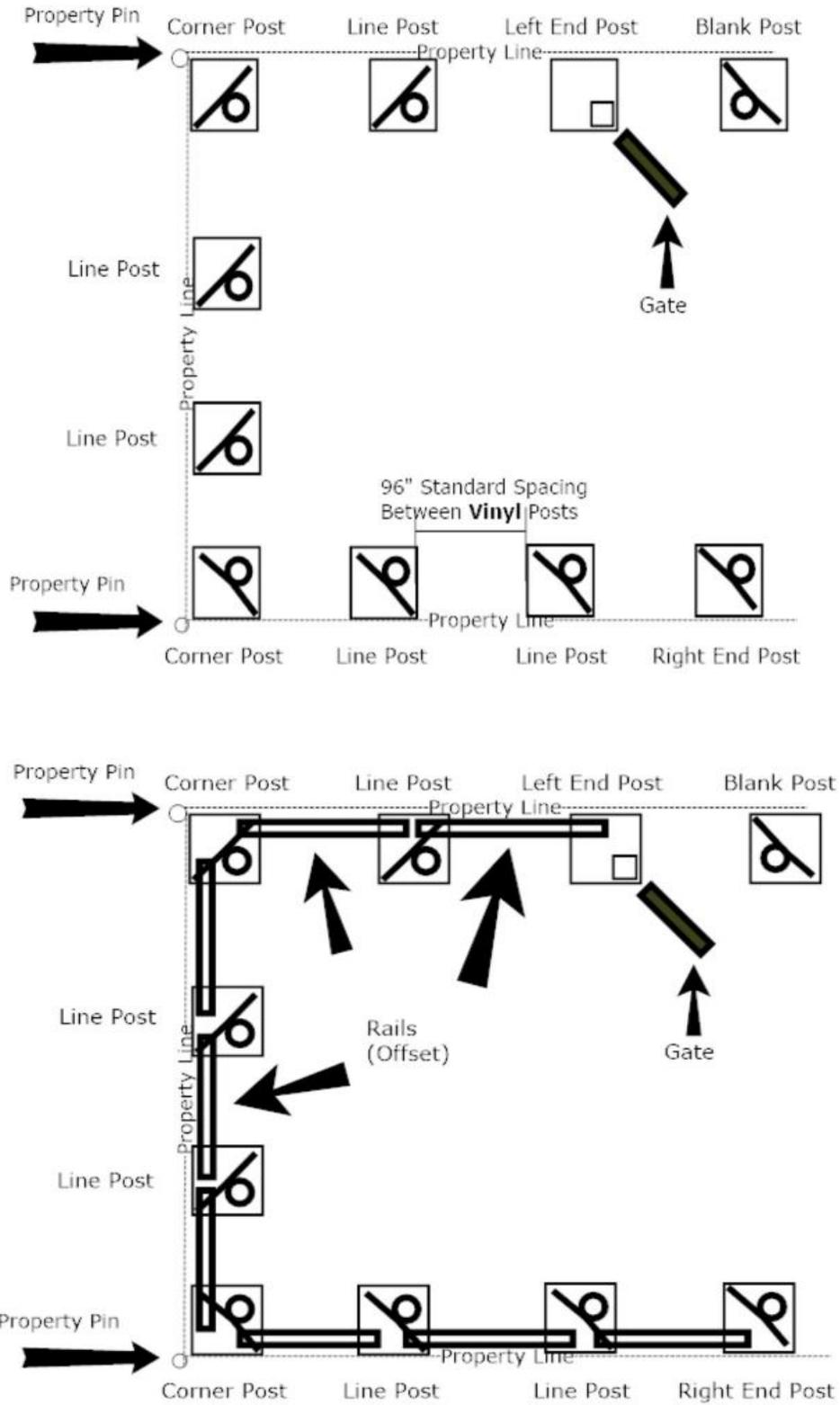


Diagram 4



Fence Section Installation

Once all the vinyl posts are placed on the steel posts, they need to be leveled for height. Rest a 4" x 4" wood block on top of the vinyl post and hit it squarely with a sledgehammer. The posts are driven down to the desired height, typically 72" off the ground. A string line is recommended again to align the top of the posts. Next, insert the bottom rails, which are identical to the top rails. For 8'+ sections, we require a steel stiffener in the bottom rail. For a standard 96" section, the rails are 100". Therefore, the rail length is the vinyl to vinyl rough opening + 4". There are "crimps" on the end of the rails that hold the rail in the post.



Next, the U-channel is attached to the vinyl post. They need to be secured vertically between the two rail cutouts (where the panels go). After that, panels are installed. The standard height of the panel is $7\frac{7}{8}$ " x 6" x $58\frac{3}{4}$ ". This allows the panel to sufficiently go into each rail slot. For a standard section, 16 panels are required. The panels are placed in the rail one by one all facing the same direction (tongue and groove). They need to be tight to the post as well as tight to each other. The last panel should be cut on a table saw to the desired width (a carbide tipped saw blade with a negative kerf is preferred, or use a new plywood blade). After the last panel is placed in the bottom rail, insert the top rail. The corner sections and the sections adjacent to the gate need to be screwed off. The screws go on the top rail **inside** the vinyl post. This provides additional support for the gate and the fence line.

The last step is to place the caps on the top of the fence and enjoy your brand new vinyl fence.