

How to Install a Single or Double Timber Uni-Field Gate or Entrance Gate

Thank you for choosing Jacksons Fencing. Our high quality fencing products will last for years and give you trouble-free service if you follow the installation instructions below, which are offered as a general guide.

For double gates, follow the same procedure, but allow a 25mm clearance between the gates, and install the centre gate stop after the gates have been hung. The centre stop, drop bolts and catch are essential for double leaf gates, as they support the gates in their closed position and resist twists which can occur in the gates. If the levels across the driveway prevent the use of a centre stop due to vehicle clearance problems, then use of a pair of drop bolts and catch is essential, for the same reason.

Please note that we do not recommend installing the posts prior to having the gates on site.

It is good practice to install a full height 'gate catch' if the gate is to be kept in the open position for extended periods. The catch latches onto the second rail down, protected by wear plates supplied with the catch.

All Timber Posts installation require proper drainage at the base of the post to avoid rotting. For Detail refer to the installation instruction for "Timber Fence Post".

Tools

Post level	Hammer	Spade / shoveler	Tape measure
Pencil	Shovel	Adjustable spanner	19mm drill
Rammer	A few marker pegs	Packing pieces	Long straight edge or straight plank

Materials

Gate / s	Slamming Post	Gate fittings	Ballast
Cement	Holding back catch	Hanging Post	Centre Gate Stop

Method

- 1) Clear and level the site. The ground over which a gate will hang and swing must be reasonably level.
- 2) The gate purchased from us should be ordered complete with the gate fittings (hinges and catch). In this example we will use a spring catch as this is the most common.
- 3) Assuming the gate is the correct width to span the road or fit the gap, the first job is to dig the holes for the posts, the hanging post first. This post has to be set firmly in the ground in concrete to the correct depth to accommodate the height of the gates plus a few centimetres for ground clearance. Remember that ground clearance has to allow the gate to swing over the highest point in its movement, so spend a bit of time checking how level or irregular the ground actually is.
- 4) To check ground clearance, use a long plank or straight edge and spirit level. You should drive a peg into the ground adjacent to the approximate position of the hanging post, and another in the approximate position of the slamming post. These pegs are to accommodate the straight edge, and should be driven in to give a level across the gateway with approximately 50 - 75mm clearance.
- 5) Move the plank round from the hanging post side to various points around the swing of the gate and in the level position, checking the ground clearance. When the spirit level reads level, check the clearance between the bottom of the plank and the ground. If the dimension is the same in each case the ground is level. If the dimension is less the ground is higher; lower if the dimension is more. When you have ascertained the ground levels, you need to decide the best clearance to leave under the gate with the gate in its closed position to allow it to swing through its desired arc.

- 6) Dig the hole for the hanging post with vertical sides and to the correct depth, to accommodate the height of the gate plus clearance that you have just established. The hole should be about 400 - 450mm square and at least 700mm deep, but may need to vary in size if the ground is soft. The hole for the slam post can also be dug now, or left until the gate is swinging (see stage 11). Gates are generally hung so that the hinges are on the centre of the back of the post and the gate overlaps the slamming post by about 20 - 25mm when using a spring catch or auto catch. This ensures the gate fixings retain the maximum adjustment.

Check that the post is upright and to the correct height and the stress relieving cut is pointing away from the entrance ('or at 90° to the hooks if gates are being hung between posts'), then back fill the hole with a 8:1 mix of cement and ballast. The post may need temporary braces to hold it in position whilst the concrete sets. The top of the concrete should be trowelled away so it will shed off water. You may prefer to leave the finished concrete a few centimetres below ground level, so soil or road / drive finishing material can be levelled across for a neat finish around the post.

- 7) When the concrete has set, the holes for the gate rides have to be made in the post. Start by marking the centre of the gate post on the side the gate will be hanging from, and then draw a line down the post (300mm down from the top and 300mm up from the bottom). You should then stand the gate up to the post, packing it up to the height determined earlier. The closing end should also be packed and temporarily supported. The holes in the top and bottom parts of the gate hinge should be centred on the lines you have drawn on the post, and a pencil mark should be made crossing the vertical centre line, level with the bottom part (the eye bolt); which should be twisted so that the hole faces up. The gate can now be moved away. Measure down 10mm from the mark in each case and make another mark: this is for the centre of the drill bit. The top ride is the threaded one with the nut and washer, and the pointed ride goes at the bottom. The top hole has to be drilled all the way through the gate post, and the bottom one only 100mm. These holes are 19mm overall, and should be drilled so that the drill bit is kept horizontal and at right angles to the post when drilling.
- 8) The top (threaded) ride should be put through the top hole with the pin facing up. This is best done by knocking it through with a hammer until the centre of the pin is approximately 55mm from the post. The bottom ride should also be driven in so it is the same distance out. The washer and nut should be fitted and tightened to the top ride.
- 9) The gate can now be lifted onto the rides. It may require a knock with the hammer to drop it down into position, and the gate should now swing freely.

Swing the gate round to its closed position, and if you have not already dug the hole (in stage 6), then dig it now. Plant the post in the hole at the correct height, so when upright, the edge of the gate is approximately 20 - 25mm in from the edge of the post. With the post held in position, back fill it with concrete (see stage 7).

Repeat stages 6 - 11 for double gates.

- 10) When the concrete has set, the receiver from the spring catch has to be fitted. This requires a 19mm drill bit. The spring catch receiver itself can be used to mark off the position for the hole to be drilled. This should be done by holding the receiver about 10mm underneath the spring catch retaining strap, and with the tick shape of the head facing the gate, make a mark with its point. (For single gates only.)
- 11) Drill the 19mm diameter hole centred on this mark, and about 45mm into the post. Shut the gate, and drive the spring catch receiver into this hole until the thick end is about 3 or 4mm from the round part of the spring catch. The catch is now fitted, and to open the gate you will have to pull on the spring catch, pulling it back towards the gate until it clears the receiver. (Single gates only.)

12) Adjustment

Check the gate over. Any minor adjustments to level can be made with the adjustable bottom hinge. This is done by loosening the inner nut, and tightening the outer nut to lift the gate.

Tidy up the site, and finally apply some grease to the gate ride pins.

- 13) Padlockable brackets are available if needed to help protect the gate from being lifted off its hinges and also to lock drop bolts in position to improve security.

Maintenance

Provided the gate has been installed correctly, it should not give you any problems, but if it drops over a period of time, adjustment can be made by the method described in stage 12. If a gate is locked and has to be climbed, this should be done at the hinge end to avoid damage by leverage. Also, remember that it is best to keep the gate shut, as holding it open for long periods of time can cause some warping, unless it is fully supported against the stile, by a full height holdback post (351800BM)

Please also note that products made from natural materials such as timber are liable to twist or bow slightly as they weather. This is entirely normal and adjustment is possible to deal with most situations. If gates are hung between posts however it is not possible to adjust for twisting of a gate leaf.

Gate Posts

Gate posts are large sections of sawn timber which grow radially i.e. from the middle out, so it is not uncommon for them to split or check, as the natural route of expansion has been stopped by cutting a round tree into a square post. We have minimised this problem with the stress relief cut in the gate posts, but some splitting or checking may still occur. Although this can look disagreeable, please be assured that the efficiency of the gate is not effected.

Special Conditions

In a situation where the ground over which a gate has to swing is not level, and the gate has to open towards the rising ground (and that it isn't possible to open the gate down the slope), it is possible to "cheat" by altering the distance of the bottom gate ride so that it is further out from the post than the stated 55mm. This can only be done by experimentation, and does mean that the gate will not be totally upright when shut. You may be able to pull in the top ride a little bit as well, or you may decide to fit a hook on 4" plate instead of the bottom hook to drive, so that you may pack behind it to

Safety Notes:

Biocidal Products Regulation (EU528/2012):

Jakcured articles incorporate biocidal products to protect against wood destroying organisms.

Active ingredients include: Copper(II)Carbonate / Copper(II)Hydroxide / Propiconazole / Tebuconazole

Wear gloves when handling freshly treated wood. Avoid breathing dust when cutting. Dispose of off-cuts responsibly – do not burn.

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