

## A Guide to Better Paling Fences



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### POSTS

**Timber Types:** durability classes 1 or 2. (Suitable for in ground use)

Eg : Red Gum, CCA Treated Radiata Pine H4 AS 1604, Yellow Stringybark, Red Ironbark, Jarrah, White Cypress Pine, Turpentine, Bloodwood, etc.

**Timber Post Minimum Size:** 125mm x 75mm nominal size. (note: larger size posts may be required to hang gates from, generally pedestrian gates can use 125mm x 75mm. Double gates require a minimum of 125mm x 125mm, (note: all gate posts from which gates hang should be set in concrete.)

**Concrete Post Minimum Size:** 110mm x 45mm. Nominal size

**Galvanized Steel Post Minimum Size:** 50mm x 50mm nominal size (must be set in concrete)

All timber posts must have a splayed top to shed water.

**Spacing of Posts** should be a maximum of 2700mm centres, however spacing up to 3000mm may be used to complete a length of fence or bridge an obstruction.

## PLINTHS

**Timber:** Unseasoned Hardwood or CCA Treated Radiata Pine H3 AS 1604.

**Size:** 150mm x 25mm nominal size.

(Plinths should not be used as retaining walls)

Larger size plinths may be used as an optional extra.

## RAILS

**Timber:** Unseasoned Hardwood or CCA Treated Radiata Pine H3 AS 1604

**Size:** Top, Bottom & Centre 75mm x 50mm nominal size. (For CCA Treated Radiata Pine H3AS1604)

**Fixing of Rails:** checked into posts and nailed with joints staggered.

## PALINGS

**Timber:** Unseasoned Hardwood or CCA Treated Radiata Pine H3 AS 1604

**Size:** 150mm unders and 100mm overs nominal size (approximately 150 of each per 30m)

Nominal overlap is 25mm each side of the paling.

Palings will shrink and the original cover will be reduced after a short period of time. Insufficient cover will cause gaps between palings.

**Timber quality:** Generally, fencing material is cut from low grade logs. As timber is a natural product, knots, gum-veins, checking and fine cracks should not necessary be considered defects.

**Thickness:** 12mm nominal size

**Fixing to Rails:** Palings should be rested on the plinth and fixed vertically to the rails. The max distance between the top of the top rail and the top of the palings, and bottom of the bottom rail and the bottom of the palings should not exceed 200mm, respectively.

## **NAILS**

Nails for the covering paling (overs) should have a flat head be a minimum of 50mm long and 2.2mm in diameter and galvanized.

Nails for the base palings (unders) should have a flathead be a minimum of 40mm long and 2.2mm in diameter and galvanized.

Plinth to post fastening with 75mm galvanized frame nails “D” head three at each post (ie. six on a join) or 75mm galvanized flathead two at each post, (ie. four on a join).

Rail to post fastening with (90mm galvanized frame nails “D” head), two at each post/rail junction (ie. four on a rail join) or (100mm galvanized flathead), one at each post/rail junction (ie. two on a rail join).

On boxed paling fences, (over lapped paling fences) one nail should be used at each rail on the base palings (unders) and two nails at each rail on covering palings (overs).

Nails must be placed as close to the edge of the cover (over) paling as possible without penetrating the base paling (under).

## **CLEATS**

Cleats are used to join rails to a wall or other fences. They are used instead of a post and do not go into the ground. (Nominal size 90mm x 45mm/100mm x 50mm CCA Treated Radiata Pine H3 AS1604)

## **CAPPING**

**Timber:** CCA Treated Radiata Pine H3 AS 1604

Capping is an optional extra and longer posts or additional supports must be used.

## **FOOTINGS**

Posts to be set plumb and embedded to a Minimum Depth of 600mm where ground conditions permit.

Refill the holes with a mixture of soil and 6kg of dry cement evenly mixed and consolidate by hand ramming, tamping or wet mixing. (eg. 1/20kg bag of cement per 3 posts)

Extra post length may be required on sloping or unstable sites (eg. Sandy soil).

## **PAINTING & STAINING**

Palings shrink quickly and need to dry out before staining and painting. Fences should not be stained or painted until 3 months after erection when painted on both sides. Or 12 months when stained or painted on one side only. Staining and painting before drying has taken place may cause the palings to warp, cup, split, crack or dry unevenly.

## **LOCATION/BOUNDARIES**

It is important that fences built on commonly shared boundary lines (ie between neighbours) are in the correct position. Equally as important are any fences built on the front boundary lines of properties adjoining road reserves, nature strips etc.

Generally speaking on shared side boundaries with boxed paling fences the boundary line is the junction between the palings and the rails. (Note: with front boundary fences the entire fence must be behind the boundary line)

Boundary lines are marked generally with survey pegs (the centre of the peg being the appropriate boundary junction) Please note that only qualified and registered land surveyors can mark boundaries if these pegs are missing.

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