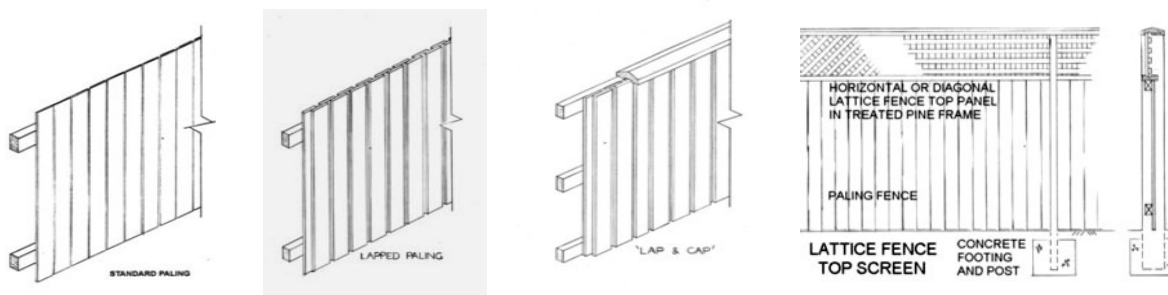


# How To Build Timber Paling Fences

Construction and design of timber paling fences.



Standard Paling, Double Lapped and Lap and Cap Designs,  
includes; lattice top privacy design



## ALL DAY FENCING

*Recycle don't rubbish your old fence for a better planet!*

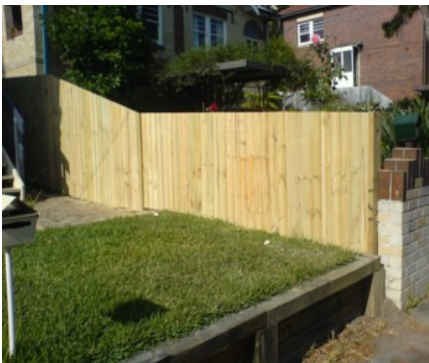
## Construction and design of timber paling fences

First impressions count! – your fencing and gates are the most important factor in the presentation of your property. Fencing and gates can change the look and appeal of your property at the same time as providing security and privacy.

A well constructed fence will last many years if constructed from the right materials, using the right methods.

Paling fences can be constructed from treated timber or hardwood, (the use of hardwood posts is banned in some areas due to insect attack and decay). If using hardwood posts, coat the ends of the posts in a liberal layer of creosote (wood preservative).

Treated timber has a green appearance, hardwood's will turn grey with age.



Treated Timber Fence



Hardwood Fence

Posts are cut 600mm longer than the height of the fence if being set in the ground and 300mm longer if core-drilled into rock or concrete. Posts set into the ground are concreted in place, whereas posts set in rock or concrete are cemented using a 4 to 1 mixture of sand and cement.

### **Step by Step Guide To Construction.**

#### Step 1.

Removal of the old existing fence can be easy providing the right procedure is followed. Firstly using a sharp handsaw or chainsaw, cut the existing fence into sections 1 metre long by cutting the fence rails.

The posts can be removed by rocking them from side to side to loosen the soil around the base. For stubborn posts clamp a block on the side of the post and use a car jack to remove.

#### Step 2.

Set out the post holes making sure they don't exceed 2.7m apart. Using a post hole digger excavate a footing 450mm deep for each post. Use a string line to ensure the footings are in line.

If you are fixing the fence to a concrete slab or stone you will need to use a coredrill and a 75mm diamond bit to fit a 50mm square steel fence post.



If you are fixing the end post to a wall, use a 50mm x 50mm galvanised steel bracket and dynabolts.

### Step 3.

Cut and insert the two end posts first, making sure they are the right height above the ground and on the boundary line. Using a bag for each footing, concrete the end posts into position.

If your fence requires a base use 170mm x 90mm sawn slabs as a base. Cut a 'V' slot in each end so they sit neatly around the posts. If you require some soil retention at the fence base use 200mm x 50mm sleepers screwed to the outside of the posts. Your paling fence will sit on top. Make sure you allow the extra height in your fence posts!

Use plastic or steel post caps to finish the top of your posts.



Treated Slabs



Retaining beams



Steel Post caps

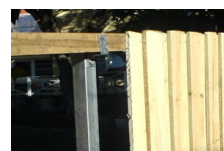
### Step 4.

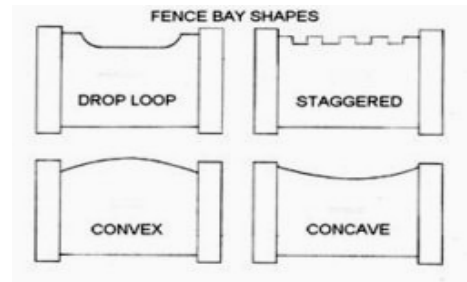
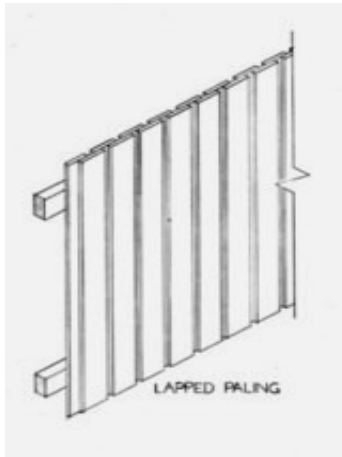
Set up a string line from the top front edge of the end posts. Cut the remaining posts to fit to the string line, making sure they are level and plumb. Concrete the centre posts with a half bag of quick set concrete per post. Quick set concrete can be mixed in the hole and sets in around 10 minutes, so be quick!



### .Step 5.

The rails are fixed to the posts by threading them through the notch holes and screw nailing through the post. For steel posts a bracket can be bolted to the post for the rail to sit in. The end of the rails should be cut on a 30 degree angle and joined over the posts.





**Step 6.**

The palings can be fixed by nail gun using 50mm galvanised nails. For standard paling, start at one end and fix the first paling at the end of the fence. Check the paling for plumb using a level and attach a string line to the top. Fix one paling to the other end of the fence and secure the other end of the string to the top. This line will mark the top of the palings.

Before nailing, check that the height is satisfactory at all parts of the fence. If a change in the height is required, fix a paling at the point the fence changes height and fix the string line to it. A shaped bay design can be cut into the top of the palings if required.

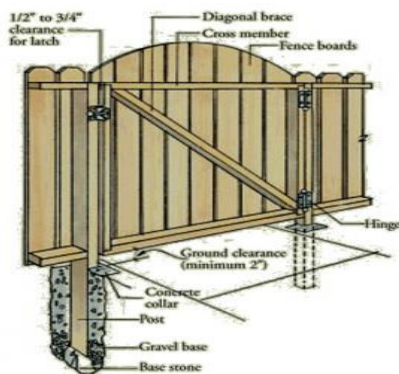
For Lapped palings two rows of palings are required. Space the first layer at 50mm spacings using an offcut of rail for a spacer. Then nail the top row of palings so they overlap both edges of the paling behind.

Where a capping is required the top rail should be 10mm below the top of the palings. The capping is then fixed to the top of the rail with the palings sitting in a rebate under the capping.

**GATES**

Gates are easy to construct using palings and a 75mm x 50mm rail as a brace.

Construct a 'Z' frame (as shown below) and fix the palings to the front. The hinges are fixed to the back of the rails. A steel frame can be used for high traffic areas.



Timber Gate 'Z' Frame design

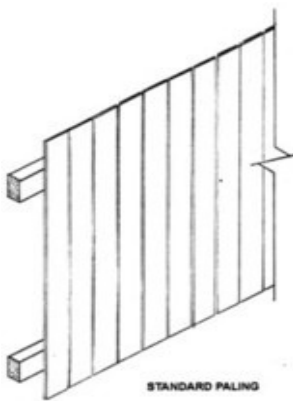
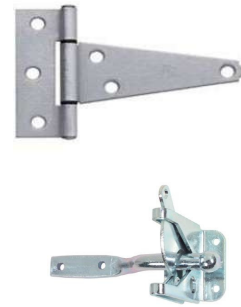


Steel Gate frame

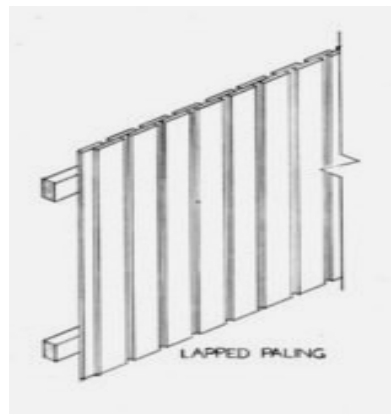
## GATE POSTS

Set your posts first as described above leaving a 20mm gap (10mm on both sides) and a ground clearance of 40mm. Concrete your posts and brace them while drying. Once your posts footings are dry use galvanised 'T' hinges to fix your gate to the posts.

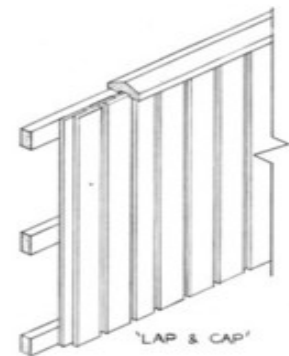
You may use a gate catch to secure your gate when closed. You can fit a gate spring if self closing is required. For double gates a long padbolt is required to secure the gate in the closed position.



Standard Paling Design



Lapped Paling Design

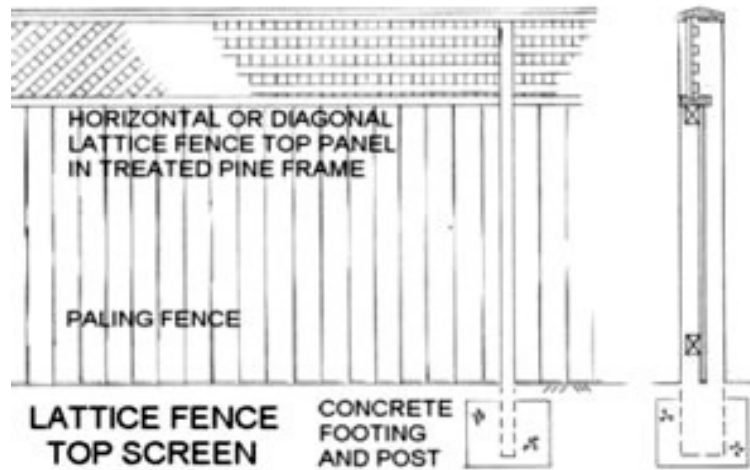


Lap'n'Cap Design

Create a lattice top privacy screen for your fence!.

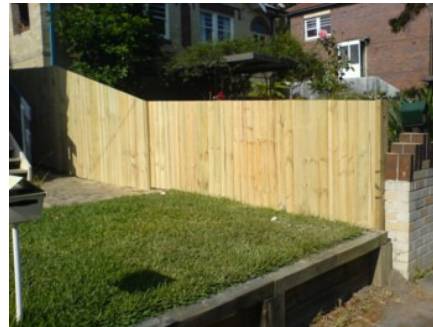
To create a paling fence with a lattice privacy top, the posts must extend to the top of the lattice. The lattice panels are nailed directly to the posts and the fence capping is fixed to the top of the lattice panels.





The lattice sheets are cut to size and surrounded by a timber frame. The frame is cut to fit between the extended posts. Use a treated fence capping to the top of the posts and lattice frame to complete the look. Both the lattice and the frame can be ordered in treated timber.

*Happy Building!*



*Recycle your old fence for a better planet!*



*Try landscape suppliers, or place an add in you local paper. Most times you will have someone come and pick it up for free.*

*If taking to the tip please separate all timber from other materials before recycling!*

*View other DIY Plans and guides at our website!*

**ALL DAY FENCING**