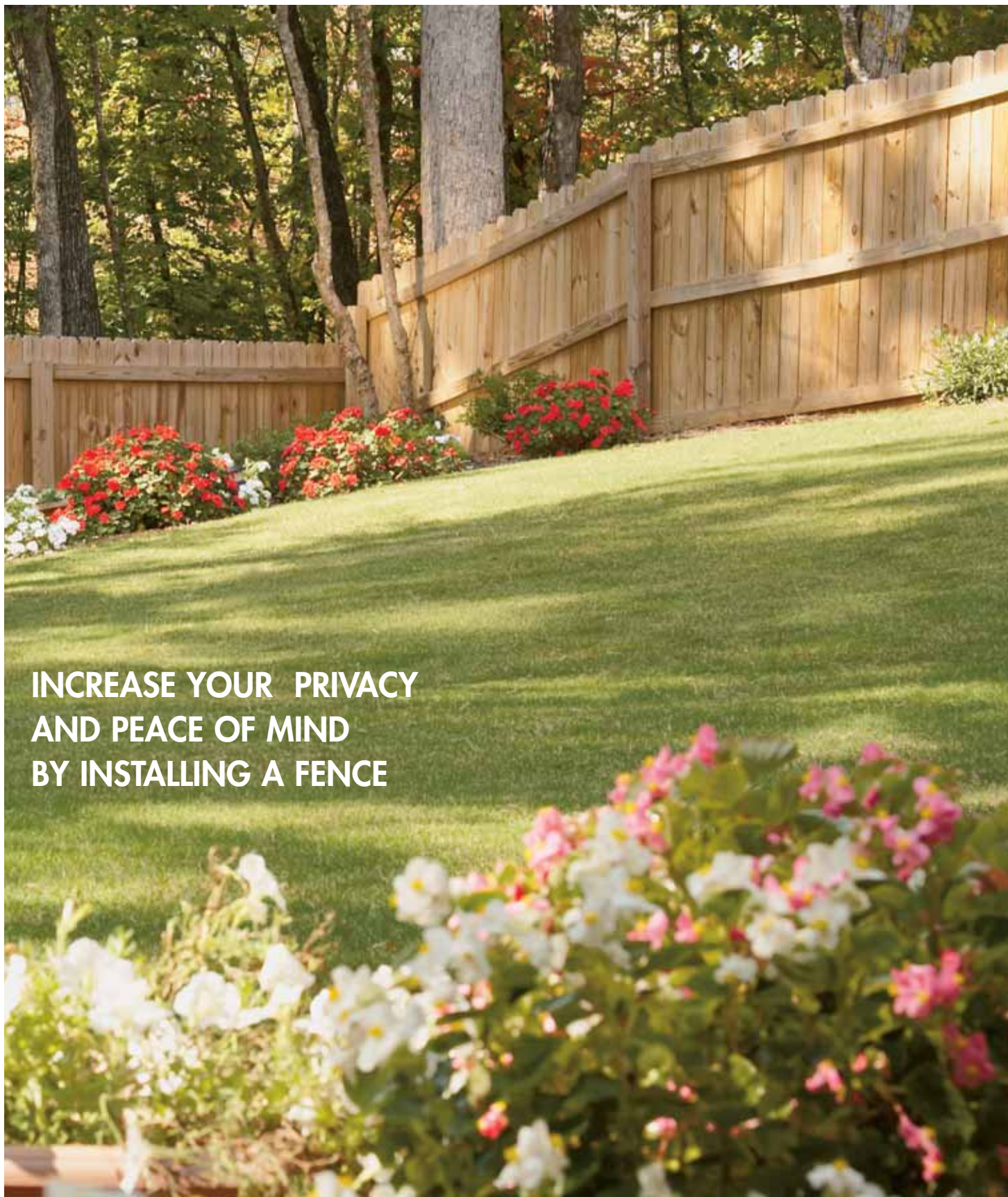




LEARN HOW



**INCREASE YOUR PRIVACY
AND PEACE OF MIND
BY INSTALLING A FENCE**

PROJECT KNOW-HOW

A standard post-and-rail skeleton supports many styles of fencing. The most popular types of fencing are to the right and below. Most fence styles have posts mounted at intervals of 4, 6, or 8 feet, with uniform space between boards (or "pickets"). Once you've selected a fence style and picket, cut rails to a multiple of the picket width. Check local codes for height restrictions. Install fencing so the bottom of each board clears the ground by at least 2 inches to prevent premature decay.

SKILL LEVEL

Medium

SKILLS

Layout, basic carpentry

TIME REQUIRED

Experienced: 8 hrs.

Handy: 12 hrs.

Novice: 16 hrs.

TOOLS

Tape measure, mason's line, line level, level, circular saw, saber saw, power miter saw, clamps, 3/8" drill and screwdriver bit, hammer, safety glasses

MATERIALS

1x fence boards, 1x2s, 2x2s, 2x4s, galvanized 6d (2") nails, #8 1 5/8", 2" and 2 1/2" deck screws

INSTALLING FENCING

SOLID BOARD

FENCING MADE OF POSTS AND RAILS



Like any other fence, this option is made of posts and rails. However, it's both more durable and more attractive thanks to a few changes; most importantly, the cap rail that runs across the top. The cap rail protects the tops of the posts, which absorb water more readily and are more likely to rot than any other surface of the post. The fence is also designed to look the same from both sides—your neighbor will likely appreciate that.

STEP 1

BUILD THE STRUCTURE



Install 4x4 posts and 2x4 top and bottom rails, then nail a 1x4 cap rail over the top rail. Cut two 1x1 supports to fit between each post. Screw the supports along the outside edge of the bottom rail on one side of the fence, fastening them every 6 to 8 inches with #8 2" deck screws. Repeat on the top rail.

STEP 2

INSTALL THE FENCE BOARDS



Put the first board in place next to a post, make sure it's plumb, and screw it to the supports with #8 1 5/8" deck screws. Work your way down the fence, using a nail as a spacer between boards (this allows them room to expand in humid weather). When you're done, screw a second set of 1x1 supports tightly against the fence boards.

BOARD & BATTEN

FENCING THAT MIMICS SHED SIDING



This fencing mimics the siding once applied to farm sheds, barns and similar outbuildings. The cap rail is an important part of this fence. Without it, each board's end grain would be exposed to the weather, and the life of the fence would be shortened.

STEP 1

BUILD THE STRUCTURE



Install the posts, top and bottom rails, and a cap rail that overhangs the side of the rail on which you'll hang the fence boards. Cut the fence boards to length and tuck them under the cap rail, spacing them with the narrow edges of a batten. Plumb the boards with a level and fasten them with 1 5/8" deck screws.

STEP 2

INSTALL THE BATTENS



Cut the battens to length with a circular saw or power miter saw. Center each batten over the space between boards and screw it to the top rail. Plumb with a level, then screw to the lower rail.

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STEP 1 SPACE THE POSTS

Space the posts to match the width of the fence boards. Your goal is to be able to put up all the fence boards without having to cut any of them to width. Keep in mind, small adjustments may be needed as you install the boards so they will fit on a standard 6- or 8-foot rail. Once the posts have been placed, attach the rails.



STEP 2 MAKE A SPACER

Make a spacer that is the width you plan on having between boards. Screw a 2x2 block to the top of the spacer so the top of the spacer will be level with the top of the boards when it is hung from the rail. Screw a small torpedo level to the spacer so you can tell if the boards are plumb before attaching.



STEP 3 LAY OUT BOTTOM FENCE BOARDS

Run a mason's line between posts and level it at the desired height above the ground. The line's location will determine the placement and length of the vertical boards. Take a measurement from the mason's line to just an inch or two below the top of the post to calculate the proper length of the fence boards.



ALTERNATE BOARD BOARDS ON BOTH SIDES OF POST

An alternate board fence is made of boards—usually 1x6s—staggered between opposite sides of the fence. Usually, the space between boards on either side of the fence is equal to the width of the boards, but you can make the space slightly narrower (so the boards overlap) to increase privacy. If you'd like a taller, narrower look, choose 1x4s instead of 1x6s. Stay away from 1x8s, as they tend to warp when installed vertically.

INSTALLING ALTERNATE BOARD FENCING

STEP 4

CUT THE BOARDS TO LENGTH



You can speed up the job by clamping two or three boards together and cutting them at the same time.

STEP 5

PUT IN THE FIRST BOARD



Align a fence board with the mason's line and butt it against the first post. Once you've made certain it's plumb, use #8 2" deck screws to screw it to the rails.

TIP

LEVELING THE PLAYING FIELD



It's not always possible to remove rocks and other obstructions from the ground. If there's an obstruction you can't get rid of, cut the fence board to follow the shape of the obstruction. Lay out the cut by clamping the full-length board plumb and in position, then using a scrap 2x4 and pencil to scribe the shape of the ground onto the board. Make the cut with a saber saw, then trim the board to length and install it.

STEP 6

INSTALL BOARDS ON ONE SIDE

Hang the spacer on the top rail and butt it against the first fence board. Butt a fence board against the spacer. Put a board against it, check to make sure it's plumb, and screw the board to the rails with #8 2" deck screws. Work your way along the fence, positioning the spacer and screwing the boards in place.



STEP 7

INSTALL BOARDS ON THE OTHER SIDE



Go to the other side of the fence. Put the spacer against the first post, and install a board against the spacer. Install boards along the entire side, spacing them with the spacer.

1-2-3

YOUR STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE

For other projects like this, please refer to **Landscape Construction 1-2-3** available at your local The Home Depot store.

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