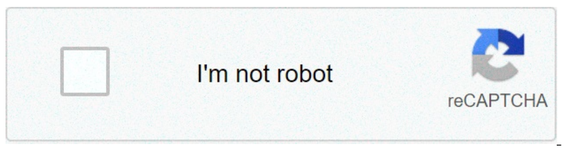

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How to install a chain link fence on concrete

The options for fencing are vast, and include many creative and artistic possibilities. However, if security, durability and value are the main priorities, chain link fencing is the clear choice. When installed correctly, chain link fencing can last for decades, and is highly effective at containing animals and excluding intruders. One key to making a chain link fence last is to set the posts in a sufficient quantity of concrete so they do not become wobbly over time. Knowing how much concrete is needed also is necessary for accurate budgeting when shopping for materials. If erected properly, chain link can be a solid, cheap way of fencing off a garden but it does rely on the preparatory work. The chain link itself is literally hung onto straining wires.Chain link is heavy and if the staining wires are not taught, or the posts that hold the wire are not strong or stable enough, the chain link will sag and look dreadful as well as being totally useless for the job it is supposed to be doing.Birdsmouth straining post fitted to end postPost Spacing for a Chain Link FenceTo fit chain link properly, Concrete in your fence posts as you would for a panelled fence except that instead of making them 6 feet apart, you only need them every 10 feet, or 3m.The end posts should be in line but the front face of any intermediate posts should line up with the centre of the end posts. I. E Intermediate posts should be 50mm back from the end posts.Supporting the Chain Link Fence end PostsThe posts at either end of the fence run take the most strain so they must have straining posts fitted to them. The image above shows a straining post fitted at approximately 45 degrees to the upright post.The image is done in two colours so you can see the shape of the joint that needs to be cut out of the upright post for a solid job. This joint is called a birdsmouth joint. You can see more about this joint, often used on roofs, in our birdsmouth project.Steel eyeboltFixing eyeboltFixing Eye Bolts and Line WiresThe bottom of the straining post should be concreted also. At the top (B) in the above image and bottom height of your chain link, drill a 10mm hole in the centre of the post and push an eye bolt through. The nut should be on the end of the thread giving the maximum adjustment when it is turned. Do this on each of the end posts.Now use the line wire (C) supplied with the roll of chain link to tie to the eye bolt at point A in the diagram above. Twist it over itself 3 or 4 times using fencing pliers.The wire should be pulled as tight as possible by hand and a galvanised staple tacked over the wires as they pass by the intermediate posts. The staples should not be banged in completely yet.Chain link fenceTightening the Line WireNext tighten the nuts on all of the eye bolts. This will tighten the line wire as tight as it can be both top and bottom. Please note, if you are fitting a chain link fence over 1.2m or 4 feet high, you should use a central line wire as well as the top and bottom ones.Galvanised stapleFixing the Chain Link FencingWhen the line wires are tight, take the roll of chain link and stand it against one of the end posts. Staple every loop to the post after fixing the top of the fence to the line wire.Unroll the wire after banging the intermediate staples in hard. Fix the top of the roll every 150mm or 6 inches with tie wire. The bottom of the roll can be fixed less regularly but this is not advisable.Using a Turnbuckle for Extra AdjustmentSometimes, with longer spans between posts, the eye bolts do not tighten the line wire enough. In these cases you can insert a turnbuckle by hooking it over the eyebolt first, then tying the line wire to the other end.This will give you the adjustment available from the eyebolt, plus the turnbuckle adjustment.Use a turnbuckle for additional adjustment – Available from our storeFixing Chain Link Fences to Concrete PostsDiagram of chain link to concrete postsFixing chain link fencing to concrete posts is a similar procedure except Stretcher bars are used instead of trying to nail staples to a concrete post!Concrete fence posts come pre drilled for eye bolts so the eye bolts still go in position F in the diagram above.The line wire (B) is twisted and tightened in the same way, using a turnbuckle if necessary. The straining post (D) is shown surrounded by concrete and the birdsmouth joint (E) is already formed in concrete end posts.At point (C) on every intermediate post, a Stirrup wire is used to tie the fence to the post. The stirrup wire can simply be a piece of line wire pushed through the hole in the post and twisted round the top of the fence.Some Stretcher bars are equipped with a winding bracket which take the place of the eye bolt and turnbuckle. These do make life considerably easier but are a little more expensive so talk to your supplier to see if you can get a good deal.If you prefer a less obvious fence than the galvanised silver of traditional chain link fencing, Green pvc coated chain link fencing could be the answer. This is fitted in exactly the same way. This site is not available in your country Before you install a chain link fence, you need to consider some tips. Anchoring every post in concrete is the best way to guarantee your chain mesh fencing is going to stand tall and straight for a long time to come. It may be tempting to bypass the time and cost of placing the posts in cement, but the savings generally are not worthwhile at the very long time. The kind of soil you're going to be placing fence posts will help determine how secure the ground is, and just how far you can expect the posts to move on time. Clay soil also grows and contracts a long time with moisture changes, therefore concrete compromises are essential. In the event you choose to set up your chain mesh fencing with no concrete, utilize a post-hole digger to create a hole deep enough to spoil the post three or more feet, roughly 1/4 of their height. Never hit the posts to the ground, particularly in the time that you've got tough clay or rocky dirt, since you'll bend the tops. The hole needs to be slightly larger than the posts, which means that you can back fill it with dirt packaged snugly around the pole. Installing your fencing without concrete can help save you a tiny quantity of money over the concrete, trowel and dirt. You could have the ability to finish the setup in a day should you apply the auger to dig out your pole holes. In the time you decide to conserve the rental fee, then it is going to take longer since you will be digging the post holes. Whether you use concrete or not, installing a chain link fence yourself requires several tools and materials, including: fence posts gates chain link mesh fasteners tension bars and wires post-hole digger power auger hacksaw or pipe cutter shovel line level mason's line plumb bob rubber mallet socket wrenches pull bar fence puller pliers pre-mixed concrete gravel trowel. This method usually takes two full days to complete, which includes time and challenges for the cement to dry overnight. If you merely require a temporary fencing, concrete posts are not really achievable. In other scenarios, anchoring each post is the perfect way to protect against changing and leaning for weather. Many people today suggest simply using cement at the end, corner and gate poles, but this way can still need a great deal of motion, and that means you are going to wind up dreading the unanchored posts in a couple of decades anyway. Check all local building codes and homeowner's association guidelines for acceptable fence styles, size and placement. Codes may also specify post hole requirements. If you're still not sure if a chain-link fence is the right choice, watch Need to Know? Choosing a Fence for more options and check out our Fence Materials Guide. Lowe's also offers a how-to for installing a wood fence. Determine if a permit is necessary. Make sure you know and mark your property lines and talk with your neighbors about the project. Use graph paper to draw a plan for your fence. Note the post locations and gate locations. Some towns might require this plan for an approved building permit. Installing a fence is, at least, a two-person job. Enlist a helper before beginning. Fence materials are heavy and bulky. Consider renting a truck to transport your materials or having them delivered to your home. Before beginning any excavation, call 811 to check for underground utilities. Before you can dig post holes, you need to lay out your fence area. Mark the layout using string and batter boards. Place the batter boards just beyond where your fence corners will be located and tie the string to them. Batter boards allow you to easily adjust the string to mark the layout, as opposed to using a single stake. Stakes are best where space is limited, like near the house. How Do I Make and Use Batter Boards? To square the corners, measure three feet along one string and four feet along the adjacent string. The diagonal between should be five feet. If not, adjust the strings. Mark the posts and spacing with stakes. Typical spacing is between 6 and 10 feet on center. Check the manufacturer's directions for post spacing. Mark the holes about half the width of the post away from the layout lines. Then, mark your lines on the batter boards with a pencil and untie them to dig the holes. Check local code for post hole size. Typically, the hole diameter should be about three times the width of the post. Some codes might require the depth to be below the frost line — the level at which water in the soil typically freezes — to help prevent the ground from pushing up the posts (known as heave) during a freeze. Note that the frost line varies by region. Mark the layout string locations on the batter boards and remove the strings. Dig the holes to size. Holes for terminal posts (end, gate and corner posts) should typically be a little bit wider and deeper than line posts (the posts in between terminal posts). For holes next to the house, use a shovel, post hole digger and digging bar. In open areas, consider using a power auger to save time and effort. Follow the manufacturer's instructions and watch our video How to Use a Power Auger for tips. Clear away the dirt you removed with a shovel and rake – letting the extra dirt sit on the lawn for a day or two will kill the grass. However, save a little bit of dirt to top off the posts after they are set in concrete. Reattach your layout lines to the batter boards. The holes are dug, now add the posts. To set your posts at the correct height, it's helpful to mark the ground line on them before setting them in the holes. Set the terminal posts first. They'll be the height of the chain-link fabric plus two inches. The line posts will be the height of the fabric minus two inches. To ensure the height of the line posts is uniform, tie a string between terminal posts at the correct height of the line posts. This technique is helpful when working on slopes. Add concrete mix to the post holes. You can choose between regular-set and fast-set options. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for mixing. If using regular-set concrete, mix it to the consistency of thick cake batter. Fill around each post. Leave the concrete a few inches below ground level. Slope it away from the post to help with water runoff. If using fast-set concrete, pour the dry mix around each post to a few inches below ground level and add water. Initially the water will sit on top, but eventually will work its way to the bottom. Use a stake to mix it if needed, but don't overwork it. Regular-set concrete mix takes a little longer to cure, but is less expensive than fast-setting mix and allows time for adjustments. Fast-set concrete mix cures quickly so you'll have to make sure your posts are set in the right place before mixing. Use a post level to make sure each post is plumb, then hold it in place with braces. Let the concrete cure. After it has cured, remove the braces and fill in the rest of the hole with dirt. Setting all of the posts may take a couple of days. When installing the hardware, leave it loose at first. You'll tighten the nuts and bolts after the fabric is installed. At each terminal post, slip on an end brace band and tension bands with the flat side to the outside. Slide on another end brace band with an end cup, then add the post cap. For corner posts, add tension bands for each direction, and alternate the cups of the brace bands with one up and one down. Offsetting the cups will keep the top rails in line. Fence rails are next in the assembly process. On the line posts, add the offset loop post tops with the offset toward the outside. Add tension wire along the bottom about 2 inches from the ground and on the same side of the fabric. Enlisting a helper is a good idea for this part. Unroll the fabric on the ground and slide a tension bar through the first row of diamonds. Secure the tension bar to the terminal post with the tension bands and carriage bolts. The fabric should extend just past your end post. To remove any excess fabric at the end, open the loops at the top and bottom of a fabric strand, then twist it out. Attach the fabric to the end post. Insert a tension bar about 3 feet from the end of the fabric. Add a temporary tension band to the terminal pole and hook a come-along to it. Hook a stretcher bar to the tension bar, attach the come-along and tighten the fabric. The fabric is tight enough when you can squeeze the diamonds just a little bit. Pull the rest of the fabric to the terminal post and insert a tension bar through the fabric and tension bands on the post. Tighten the bolts. Remove the come-along and temporary bar. Attach the fabric to the posts with fence ties about every 12 inches, and along the top rail every 24 inches. Along the bottom, secure the fence to the tension wire with wire clips. Finish the enclosure by hanging the gate. Attach the gate hinges to the posts about 8 inches from the top and bottom. The top pin should face down and the bottom pin up. Loosely attach the frame hinges to the gate. Use blocks on the ground to set the gate about 2 inches above ground. Adjust the frame hinges to fit on the post hinges and tighten. Attach the latch at a comfortable height on the gate and secure with nuts and bolts. How to erect Chainlink FencingThe below guide explains how to erect chainlink fencing using existing wooden, concrete or angle iron posts. If you are looking to install a chain link system from scratch, then we would recommend using our European made chain link post system.Our chain link post system is easy to install, uses high quality fully galvanized and green powder coated steel tubular posts, and is competively priced in relation to wooden, concrete or angle iron posts. We also have a number of kits available which include everything that you need to install the chain link fencing.In order to view our range of chain link and post system products, please click on the following link (link to chain link and post system). We also have a detailed guide which explains how to install chain link using our chain link post system (link to post system guide).If you have existing wooden, concrete posts or angle iron posts, then we sell a Fitting Kit with the necessary fittings to attach your chain-link onto the posts. Please click on the following link to view our Fitting Kits (link to Fitting Kits).Please see below basic instructions for installing chain-link onto wooden / concrete / angle iron posts:Guide for wooden, concrete, angle iron posts:1. First clear away all obstructions before pegging out the line of the chain link fence with string.2. Mark the position of the end straining posts / corner straining posts / two-way intermediate straining post, and dig the holes for their foundations. In normal soil allow for the following foundations:a. Posts up to 1.20 m. The holes should be approx. 150mm square.b. Posts over 1.20 m. The holes should be approx. 200 mm square.c. Holes for straining post stays should be approx. 200mm square. 3. Secure the straining posts into the ground using post-crete.4. Fix a line taut between the straining posts and set the intermediate posts along this line at 3 metre intervals. 5. When the posts are firmly set, unroll the coil of line wire and strain between the posts.Wooden / concrete posts: Tension evenly spaced line wires using eyebolts. The eyebolt should be used to secure an angle cleat to the posts (i.e. thread the eyebolt through the angle cleat, so that the eyebolt itself is holding the angle cleat onto your straining post). The line wire should be threaded through the holes on your intermediate posts, and then fixed to the eye of the eyebolt on the straining post. The other end of the line wire should be attached to the corresponding eyebolt on the straining post at the end of your run. The wire is then tensioned by tightening the nut on the eyebolt - this will draw the eyebolt through the post, which tensions the wire.Angle Iron posts: The line wire is threaded through the intermediate posts, as above, but is secured to the straining posts by threading the end of the wire through the barrel on the winder. The winder is turned using a spanner, which tensions the wire.The number of line wires depends on the height of the fence and is as follows:Chain Link Fencing less than 1.2 metres high - 2 line wires.Chain Link Fencing between 1.2 metres and 2.25 metres – 3 line wires.6. Stand the roll on end, keeping it rolled up, with the exposed edge against the straining post. Thread the stretcher bar vertically through the each hole at the start of the chain-link. The stretcher bar should then be bolted onto your straining posts (for wooden or concrete posts, bolt the stretcher bar onto the angle cleats which have been secured using the eyebolts, for angle iron posts simply bolt the stretcher bar directly onto the post).7. Unroll the chain link fencing along the line of the fence pulling the mesh as tight as possible as you move along. Secure the chain-link onto each run of the strained tension wire using tie wire or hog rings as you go along. You should use around 3 ties / hog rings per metre on each run of line wire. 8. Simply run the chain-link past the face of the intermediate posts. When you reach a straining post (either an end post, corner post, two-way straining post), you need to stop your run of fencing. To do this, work out where the chain-link needs to end in order to keep sufficient tension in the fence (this is where you will weave in your second stretcher bar). Separate off the excess chain-link by untwisting the top and bottom diamond on the fence, one of the wires will then simply spiral out of the roll, and the excess fencing will fall away. 9. To complete the fence, insert the second stretcher bar into the end of the chain-link roll, by weaving it vertically in and out of each hole. Finally, bolt the stretcher bar onto the straining post to complete the run of fencing.STRAINING POSTS FOR CHAIN LINK FENCINGStraining posts (end posts, two-way straining posts, corner posts) are required at each end of the chain link fence, at each change of direction or when there is a big variation in ground level.Straining posts should be positioned as follows:a. As terminal posts at the start and end of fencing runs.b. As corner posts which are approximately at right angles.c. As intermediate two-way straining posts to break up long runs over 25m, or where there is a small change in direction, or for use on gradients.JOINING A ROLL OF CHAIN LINK FENCINGRemove a spiral from the end of the roll to be joined on. This is easily achieved by un-twisting the top and bottom diamonds on the chain-link, and sprialling out one of the wires. Bring together the end of one roll with the beginning of the next roll and weave them together by twisting the removed wire back into the fencing. When the removed wire has been screwed into position, the top and bottom diamonds should be twisted back together to complete the join.

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