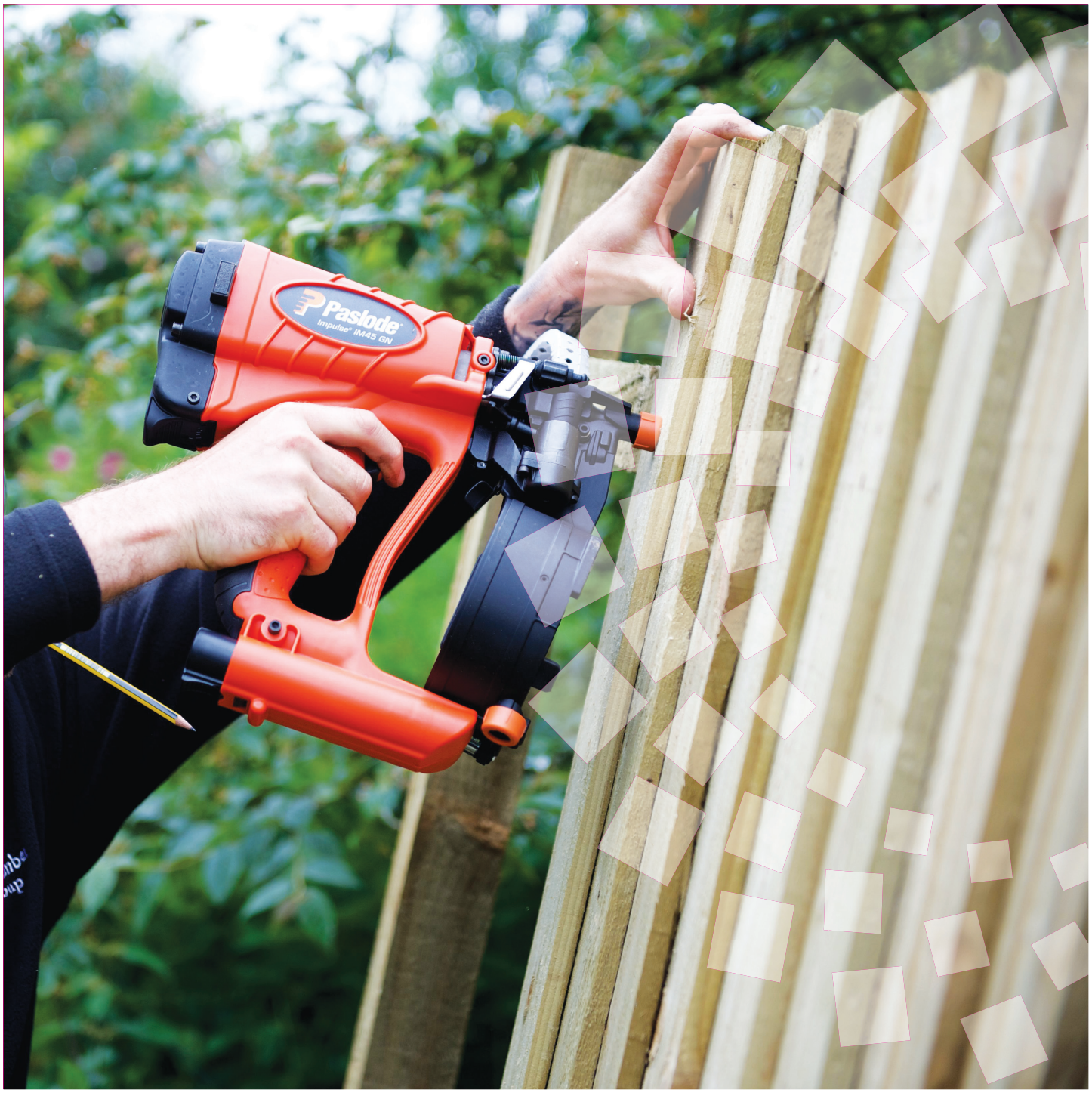
BSW Timber

Timber Fencing Installation Guidance

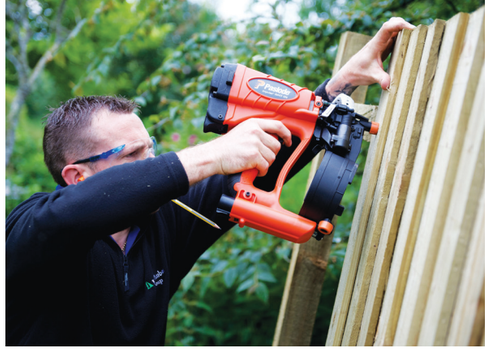
A step-by-step guide from BSW Timber

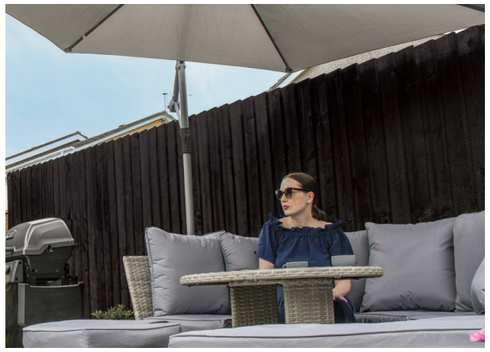


BSW Timber provides a wide range of environmentally friendly, strong, and easily maintained fencing products that are ideal for boundaries.

There are two main types of boards used for closeboard fencing – feather edge and square sawn – that are attached to a post and rail system.

BSW Timber's fencing products are available in a variety of thicknesses, widths, and lengths, to suit any project. For a full list of all fence and gate posts, fence boards and fence rails, please refer to the size table.





Available sizes

Sizes	Thickness (mm)	Widths (mm) 75	88	100	125	150	175	Lengths (metres)
Fencing Boards	16	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	-	1.2, 1.5, 1.8, 2.4, 3.0, 3.6, 4.2
	19	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	-	1.2, 1.5, 1.8, 2.4, 3.0, 3.6, 4.2
	22	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	-	1.2, 1.5, 1.8, 2.4, 3.0, 3.6, 4.2
Feather Edge Boards	2 ex 22	-	-	✓	✓	✓	-	1.2, 1.35, 1.5, 1.65, 1.8, 3.6
Gravel Boards	22	-	-	-	-	✓	-	3.0, 3.6
Rails	38	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-	3.0, 3.6, 4.2, 4.8
Arris Rails	2 ex 75	✓	-	-	-	-	-	2.4, 2.7, 3.0, 3.6
Canted Rails	2 ex 47	-	-	-	✓	-	✓	2.4, 3.0
Posts	75	✓	-	✓	-	-	-	1.5, 1.8, 2.1, 2.4, 3.0
	100	-	-	✓	-	-	-	1.5, 1.8, 2.1, 2.4, 3.0

The right tools for the job

You will need:

- Tape measure
- Spirit level
- String
- Claw hammer
- End grain preservative
- Brush
- Saw
- Nail gun
- Galvanized nails
- Screwdriver
- Wood screws
- Post cement mix
- Spade
- Fencing materials

Before you get started

- If you're planning a boundary fence, make sure you discuss any plans with your neighbours.
- Clear the area by removing any vegetation and mark out where the fence will go by pegging out a string line. Posts should ideally be no more than 2400mm apart – the most common approach is to space at 1800mm.

Installing your fence posts

- Firstly, to guarantee a long-lasting fence, ensure you've bought incised fence posts from BSW's UC4 Collection – these posts come with a 15-year UK-based warranty.
- Make sure you've got the right size of fence post for the height you want to achieve.

  For a 1800mm high fence you will need a 2400mm post, as 600mm of it will be in the ground.
- If you must trim the end of your fence post ensure that you treat the cut end with endgrain preservative.

- Dig a hole roughly 600mm deep and three times as wide as the post. Before digging post holes, check for any underground services such as cables, pipes or drainage runs.

- Position the post in place, and secure with hardcore or gravel – this aids drainage.
- Pour in the concrete mix, as per the manufacturer's instructions so that it just comes above ground level and ensure that the post is square using your spirit level.

  You may attach a timber batten to act as a strut to hold the post in place whilst the concrete sets.

- Smooth down the concrete with a trowel, sloping it away from the post to ensure rainwater run-off.
- Use the length of a rail to determine the correct location for your next post.

Installing your rails

- The common types of rails for fencing are standard rails, arris (triangular) rails and cant rails (rectangular with a sloped top edge).
- Fencing up to 1200mm in height requires two rails and above this height at least three rails.
- Arris rails can be fixed onto a square post using arris rail support brackets that screw onto the post, or by using a notched post. Cant rails can be fixed by screwing them into a square post.
- There are three methods to fixing rails which will result in the boards either finishing flush with the posts or on the inside of the posts:
  a. Face-fixed to posts.
  b. Fixed between posts.
  c. Rebated into the posts.

- Rails should be positioned a maximum of 150mm above the ground and 150mm below the top of the posts.
- Ensure any cut ends of the rails are treated with end grain preservative.
- Fix the rails depending on the finish you want to achieve with the boards using 75mm screws

- When the bottom of the fence meets ground level a gravel board should be fitted to protect the boards against rot and decay.

  Fix the gravel board using 3x 75mm screws at each end, and where fitted above concrete or masonry leave a gap of at least 5mm to aid drainage.

Installing your boards

- When fixing feather edge boards, you will need to allow for an overlap of approximately 25mm for each board.

  For example, a 2400mm bay would require 24 boards at 125mm wide.

- Ensure the first feather edge board is installed upright and level and check every fifth board to avoid creeping. A combination square is ideal for ensuring consistent spacing on feather edge boards, or you may prefer to use your own guide.
- Square boards should be spaced to allow for shrinkage and swelling caused by moisture. A simple and consistent approach to this is to fix the first board against the corner post, and then use an offcut of board on its side, butting it up against the fixed board and pushing the next board hard against it, before fixing it in place.
- 50mm nails/screws are suitable for either type of board and one should be fixed to each rail.

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