SEQUOIA
FOREST PRODUCTS

Step-by-Step Instructions: Building a 6-Foot Redwood Privacy Fence
These instructions are for building a component fence (post, rail, and picket) using standard 4x4 posts and **3/4" x 5.5" x 6' Dog-Ear (DE) Redwood Pickets.**

Materials & Tools Checklist

Materials	Tools
4x4 Pressure-Treated or Redwood Posts (8’ or 10’ length)	Post-Hole Digger or Auger
2x4 Pressure-Treated or Redwood Rails (8’ length)	Circular Saw or Miter Saw
3/4" x 5.5" x 6' Redwood DE Pickets	Measuring Tape, Level (4-ft & Post)
Concrete Mix (or Gravel/Tamp for dry-set)	Mason's Line (String) & Stakes
2.5" Exterior-Grade Screws or 8d Hot-Dip Galvanized/Stainless Nails	Safety Glasses & Gloves
1.5" or 2" Exterior-Grade Nails/Screws for Pickets	Spacer Block (e.g., a **1/8"** piece of scrap wood)

Phase 1: Planning and Post Installation

1. Mark the Layout:

- Drive stakes at the start, end, and all corners of the fence line.
- Run a taut **mason's line** between the stakes to define the straight top edge and overall line of the fence.
- Mark the post locations along the string line. **Post spacing should be no more than 8 feet center-to-center** to accommodate 8-foot rails. 6-foot spacing is recommended for maximum strength.

2. Dig and Set the Posts:

- **Call 811** before you dig to locate underground utilities.
- Dig post holes to a depth of at least **2 feet (24 inches)**, or one-third the height of the post, and 10-12 inches wide. In frost zones, dig below the frost line.
- Place about **4 inches of gravel** in the bottom of each hole for drainage.
- Set a post in the hole, verifying that the top aligns with your string line (or is at a marked height). Use a post level to check that it is perfectly **plumb (vertical)** on both sides.
- Pour concrete mix into the hole around the post, sloping the top of the concrete away from the post to shed water.
- **Brace the posts** with scrap lumber to hold them plumb. **Allow concrete to cure for at least 24-48 hours** before attaching rails.

Phase 2: Installing the Rails

1. Mark Rail Locations:

- You will use **three horizontal rails** per section for a 6-foot fence to prevent the pickets from warping.

- Measure and mark the height for each rail on the posts:
    - **Top Rail:** Approximately 6 inches down from the top of the 6-foot pickets (about 5’6” from the ground).
    - **Bottom Rail:** Approximately 6 inches up from the ground.
    - **Middle Rail:** Center between the top and bottom rails.

2. Attach the Rails:

- Hold the first rail piece (2x4) flush with the outside face of the first post, aligning it with your marks.
- Secure the rail to the post with **two 2.5" exterior-grade screws or two 8d galvanized nails** at each end.
- At each post, butt the next rail section tightly against the end of the previous rail section, centering the joint over the post. **Never have two rail joints fall on the same post at the same height.**

Phase 3: Attaching the Pickets (The Fencing)

Picket Size: 3/4" thick x 5.5" wide x 6' tall DE Pickets

1. Establish the Bottom Edge:

- Temporarily nail a long, straight **2x4 furring strip** horizontally along the bottom rail, setting its top edge at least **1 inch above the ground**. This prevents the redwood pickets from wicking ground moisture.

2. Install the First Picket:

- Place the first 6-foot picket at the end post, ensuring it is perfectly **plumb** using a level. The picket should sit on the **furring strip** from Step 1.
- The picket will cover the side of the 4x4 post.
- Nail the picket to each of the three rails using **two 1.5" or 2" exterior-grade nails** per rail.

3. Install Remaining Pickets (Privacy Style):

- **Picket Spacing:** Use a thin spacer (e.g., a **1/8" piece of scrap wood** or a couple of nails) between pickets. This small gap allows for the natural expansion and contraction of the redwood.
- Place your spacer against the edge of the first installed picket.
- Position the next picket against the spacer and check it for **plumb** before nailing.
- Repeat the nailing pattern (**two nails per rail**) and continue along the fence line, removing and resetting your spacer block for each new picket.

4. Adjust and Finish:

- As you approach the end post of a section, you may need to **slightly adjust the gap** between the final 4-5 pickets to ensure the last picket ends neatly on the post. **Avoid creating a very narrow sliver.**
- Remove the temporary furring strip at the bottom.
- Trim the tops of the **4x4 posts** (if they extend above the pickets) and install post caps for a finished look.
- Apply a **UV-protectant stain or sealer** to the redwood to maintain its rich color and maximize its long-term durability.