



Here are the tools, materials, and build steps you'll need to construct your own living fence.

TOOLS

Drill
Screwdriver
Level
Tape measure
Pencil
Eye and ear protection
Posthole digger
Tamper (or spare 2 in. x 4 in. board)
Shovel

MATERIALS

(2) 4 in. x 4 in. x 8 ft. treated wood posts
(1) 2 in. x 4 in. x 8 ft. treated wood board
(1) 50 ft. reel 14-gauge outdoor wire
(4) Turnbuckles
(8) Eyelets
(8) Wire Rope Clamps
2 ½ in. wood deck screws
(2) 50-lb bags fast-setting concrete mix

BUILDING STEPS

1. Take the posthole digger and dig out one 2 ½ ft.-deep posthole. For the best results, dig the hole to be 12 in. in diameter.



2. Center a 4 in. x 4 in. x 8 ft. post in the posthole. Ensure the post is level and running perpendicular to the ground.



3. Add one 50-lb bag of concrete to the hole and mix with water. Let cure according to manufacturer's recommendations. Once dry, grab a shovel and fill in the rest of the hole with dirt.



BUILDING STEPS

4. Take the 2 in. x 4 in. x 8 ft. pressure-treated board and lay it across the set 4 in. x 4 in. x 8 ft. post, ensuring the edges and corners are flush. Use the end of the now-horizontal pressure-treated board to determine where to dig and set the other post.



5. Repeat steps 1 through 3 for the other 4 in. x 4 in. x 8 ft. post, ensuring that it runs perpendicular with the ground and parallel to the already set post.

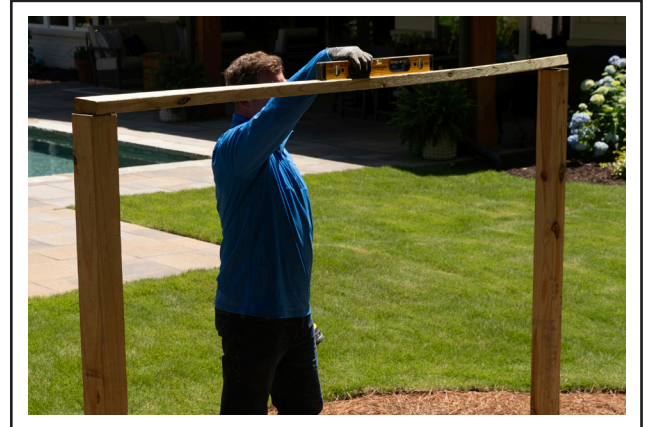


6. Use tamper or spare 2 in. x 4 in. board to level out the dirt around both posts.



BUILDING STEPS

7. Take the 2 in. x 4 in. x 8 ft. pressure-treated board and lay it on top of the posts, again ensuring that the edges are flush and level with the posts.



8. Attach the cross board to the posts using wood deck screws.



9. Measuring from the bottom, mark 4 points evenly spaced 16 in. from each other on the inside of both posts.



BUILDING STEPS

10. Take the drill and predrill holes at the marked points on both posts. Then, screw in the 8 eyelets. Attach the 4 turnbuckles to the eyelets on one of the posts.



11. Take the wire and thread it through an eyelet. Then, take a wire rope clamp and clamp the wire.



12. Pull the wire across and cut it to length, trimming off any excess. Leave an additional 3 to 4 in. of wire per cut length to attach to the turnbuckles.



BUILDING STEPS

13. Attach the other end of the wire to the turnbuckle. Tighten until the wire is taut and attach another wire rope clamp.



14. Repeat steps 11 through 13 for the other 3 wires.

SELECTING AND GROWING YOUR PLANTS

Based on your local climate and soil, different plant species have different care requirements and “training” needs. If you’re growing from seeds, make sure to read your seed packet for a lowdown on germination time, growth specifications, and more. If you’re looking to espalier, or train a fruit tree or shrub, [click here](#), or visit starkbros.com/growing-guide/article/espalier-fruit-trees. Likewise, you can contact the vendor or nursery you purchased your plants from for further details on growing time and requirements.

