Footing & Hardware Chart

Build a sag-free, welcoming entrance gate that lasts for decades.

Specify the exact foundation, clearance, and hardware measurements needed to guarantee your hard work never drops. Find the right specifications for your custom build below.



Key measurements

6 inches
crushed gravel base for drainage

5000 PSI
concrete mix for compressive strength

2 directions
to plumb post before setting

3 feet
excess low-voltage wire at top

15 minutes
before wiping excess penetrating oil

Cap the empty conduit

Cap both ends of the empty PVC conduit during construction to prevent dirt, water, and insects from blocking the pipe before you pull wires.

Hidden longevity secrets

1. **Bell-bottom footing** Flare the concrete base wider at the bottom to physically prevent frost heave.
2. **Hidden steel core** Sleeve a galvanized square tube inside hollow cedar to stop wood from warping.
3. **3-inch sweep gap** Leave clearance for shifting stones and snow. Measure from the highest point of seasonal shift.
4. **Adjustable J-hinge** Mount with threaded bolts to easily re-level the gate and correct minor seasonal sagging.
5. **PVC wire conduit** Run pipe alongside the post before pouring concrete to prepare for future landscape lighting.

Hardware by gate weight

Find your row: **Expected weight**

Expected weight	Your pick	Why
Under 50 lbs	Standard gravity latch	Use a light duty strike plate
50 - 100 lbs	Self-adjusting latch	Use a reinforced strike plate
Over 100 lbs	Magnetic safety latch	Use a heavy duty strike plate

Site & planning checks

- ◯ Verify your local frost line depth for the footing calculation.
- ◯ Check the manufacturer load rating on your selected heavy-duty hinges.
- ◯ Wait until laying the final hardscape before finalizing the gap.
- ◯ Measure clearance from the highest elevation point within the swing radius.

Project notes & measurements

Enjoy your beautiful new entrance, built to welcome guests for decades to come!