

# Lumber & Spacing Cheat Sheet

Build a classic, structurally sound farm style fence.

Grab the right materials and map out a boundary that lasts for decades. Use these exact specs to keep your new fence perfectly proportioned.

## ● Essential Build Specs

**8 ft**

on center for treated posts

**10 in**

vertical gap between cedar rails

**6-inch**

soil clearance

**15-degree**

angled top sheds rain

**45-degree**

scarf joint overlaps at posts

**3-inch**

exterior screws for every joint

**3 ft**

concrete depth for hinge post

**14-gauge**

mesh; black wire vanishes



*Crown up prevents sag*

*Sight down the narrow edge of every rail to find the convex side. Install this side facing up so gravity naturally pulls the wood straight.*

## ● Find Your Fence Style

Find your row: **Home architecture**

| Home architecture  | Your pick         | Why                                    |
|--------------------|-------------------|----------------------------------------|
| Traditional estate | Crisp white paint | Elevates simple post-and-board designs |
| Woodland setting   | Rough-sawn cedar  | Weathers naturally to silvery gray     |
| Modern yard        | Matte black stain | Creates a striking architectural frame |

## ● Site Checks & Prep

- Verify your bottom gap allows a string trimmer to pass freely.
- Locate underground utilities before digging any main post holes.
- Check that your gate's diagonal cross-brace points downward to the bottom hinge.
- Ensure you have through-bolts for all heavy-duty gate hardware.

## ● Building & Fastening

- 1 Bevel the posts** Leave no flat surfaces on your supports to prevent premature end-grain rot.
- 2 Pre-drill the joints** Pre-drill the delicate tapered ends where your boards meet to prevent splitting.
- 3 Lock joints tightly** Drive structural fasteners to clamp rails against posts through decades of harsh weather.
- 4 Add pet protection** Staple coated mesh to the inside face. The dark vinyl absorbs light beautifully.

## ● Project Notes & Measurements

Enjoy your beautiful, sturdy new boundary that will stand the test of time!