

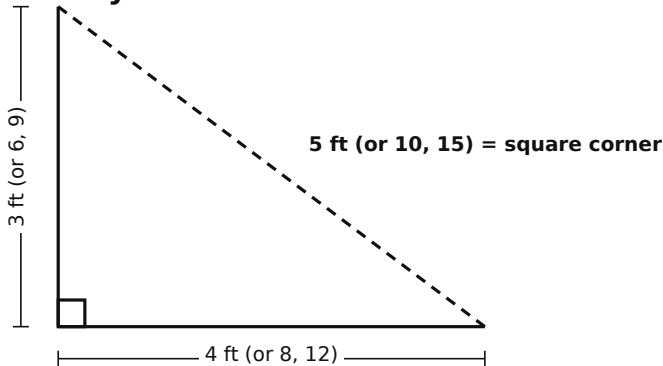
How to Measure & Lay Out a Fence

A step-by-step layout guide: confirm the line, string it, square the corners with 3-4-5, and mark posts at an even spacing. With a field sketch grid.

Before you measure

- ☐ Find the property pins or get a survey; don't guess the line
- ☐ Check setbacks, height limits and permit rules with your town and HOA
- ☐ Decide which side faces out (many towns want the finished side facing neighbors)
- ☐ Book an 811 utility locate a few days before digging
- ☐ Note slopes, trees, drainage paths and sprinkler lines

Square every corner



SQUARE A CORNER WITH 3-4-5

1. Run a string along the first fence line.
 2. Mark 3 ft from the corner on that string.
 3. Mark 4 ft from the corner on the second string.
 4. Swing the second string until the marks are exactly 5 ft apart. That corner is 90°.
- Use 6-8-10 or 9-12-15 for longer, more accurate runs.

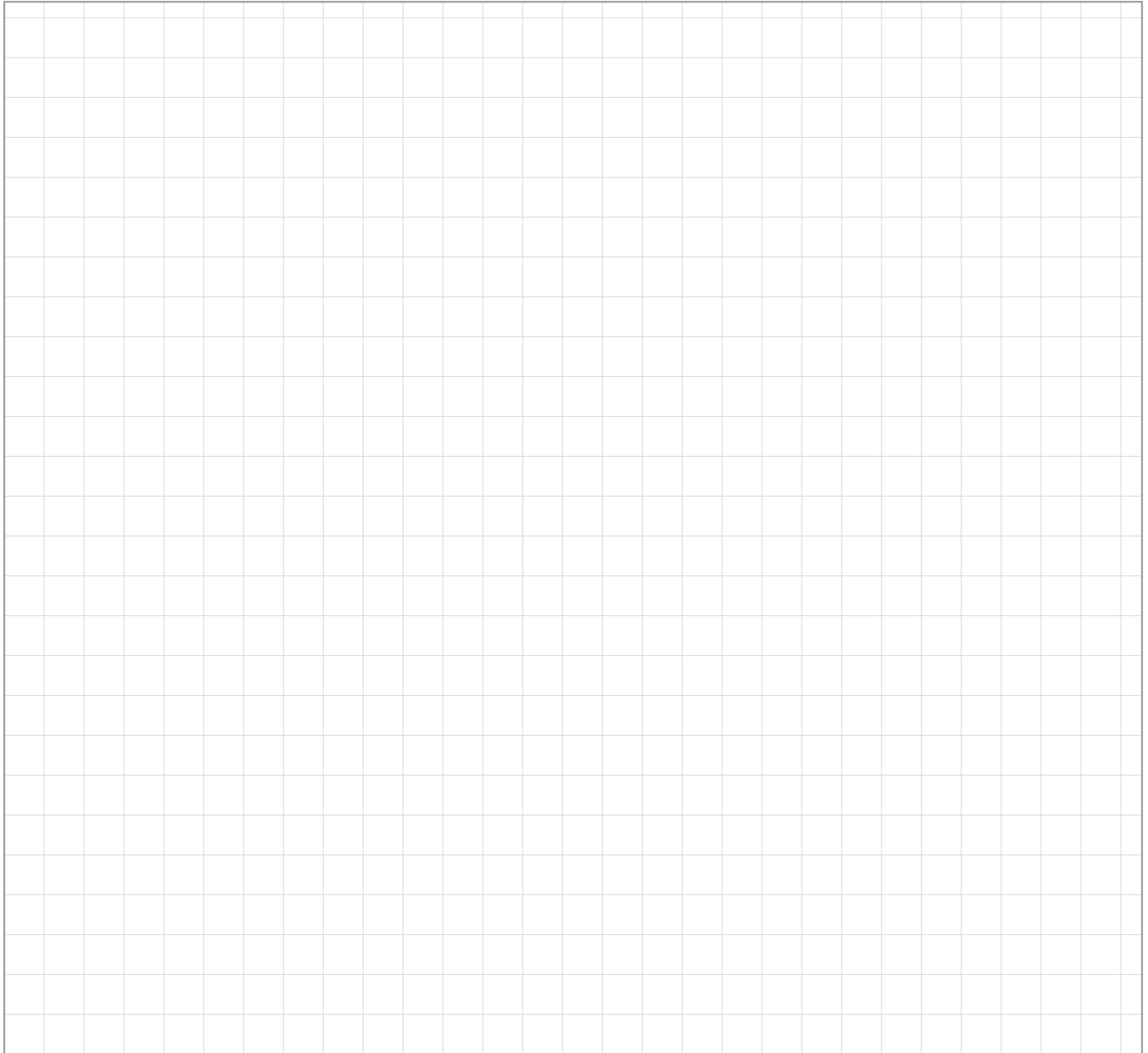
Space posts evenly

Number of sections = run length ÷ your maximum spacing, rounded up. Actual spacing = run length ÷ sections.
 Posts = sections + 1. Example: a 50 ft run at 8 ft maximum is 7 sections at 7 ft 1-3/4 in, with 8 posts.

Run length	Max 6 ft spacing	Max 8 ft spacing	Max 10 ft spacing
24 ft	4 sections @ 6.00 ft, 5 posts	3 sections @ 8.00 ft, 4 posts	3 sections @ 8.00 ft, 4 posts
40 ft	7 sections @ 5.71 ft, 8 posts	5 sections @ 8.00 ft, 6 posts	4 sections @ 10.00 ft, 5 posts
50 ft	9 sections @ 5.56 ft, 10 posts	7 sections @ 7.14 ft, 8 posts	5 sections @ 10.00 ft, 6 posts
75 ft	13 sections @ 5.77 ft, 14 posts	10 sections @ 7.50 ft, 11 posts	8 sections @ 9.38 ft, 9 posts
100 ft	17 sections @ 5.88 ft, 18 posts	13 sections @ 7.69 ft, 14 posts	10 sections @ 10.00 ft, 11 posts
150 ft	25 sections @ 6.00 ft, 26 posts	19 sections @ 7.89 ft, 20 posts	15 sections @ 10.00 ft, 16 posts

Field sketch

1 square = ____ ft. Mark runs, corners, gates (with swing), slopes, trees and the property line.



On a slope, posts stay plumb and the measurement is horizontal: hold the tape level, not along the ground. Stepped or racked panels change the picket and rail counts; use the fence on a slope calculator.