



Installation & Care Manual

**Tongue & Groove Composite
Fence & Gate Products**

General Information

Be sure not to stack or drag construction materials and equipment on top of the boards as this may cause damage.

Composite boards can be easily cut to size using a circular saw (use a thin blade suitable for wood and composite material for cleaner cuts) or use a power mitre saw for corners.

Installation Method for Gates

For use in gates, install the boards into pre-fabricated frame – we advise measuring the boards prior to fabricating the frame to ensure the most accurate fit.

To fix, you can bolt through the boards. **Always** pilot drill (pre-drill) your holes to the correct size before fixing, or you may split the boards. The same applies with screw fixings; pre-drill all holes beforehand.

Always drill drainage holes in the base of your frame to stop water build up in the bottom channel. Not allowing drainage can cause water ingress from the bottom of the board.

The use of spacers along the inside of the bottom channel of the frame to prevent the chance of the boards sitting in water pools is highly recommended. Allow 5mm around the edges for expansion.

When installing the boards vertically, if the height is over 1.5m then a cross brace must be used.

Installation Methods for Fences

Step 1: Installing the Posts

Our posts are supplied at 2.4m allowing 2 available methods of installation.

You must first measure the widths of the panels – each board needs to be cut to length by approx. 5 inches to suit the width of the rail. Lay a panel out and measure precisely before starting.

Concrete in method:

To concrete in, you must dig down to allow insertion to the **recommended 500mm** into the ground.

You must firmly support the posts in position and ensure they are level before concreting in.

For fast fixing, use a fast-setting concrete designed for fence posts.

Once fixed, you are ready to complete your installation using the guide below.

Bolt in in method:

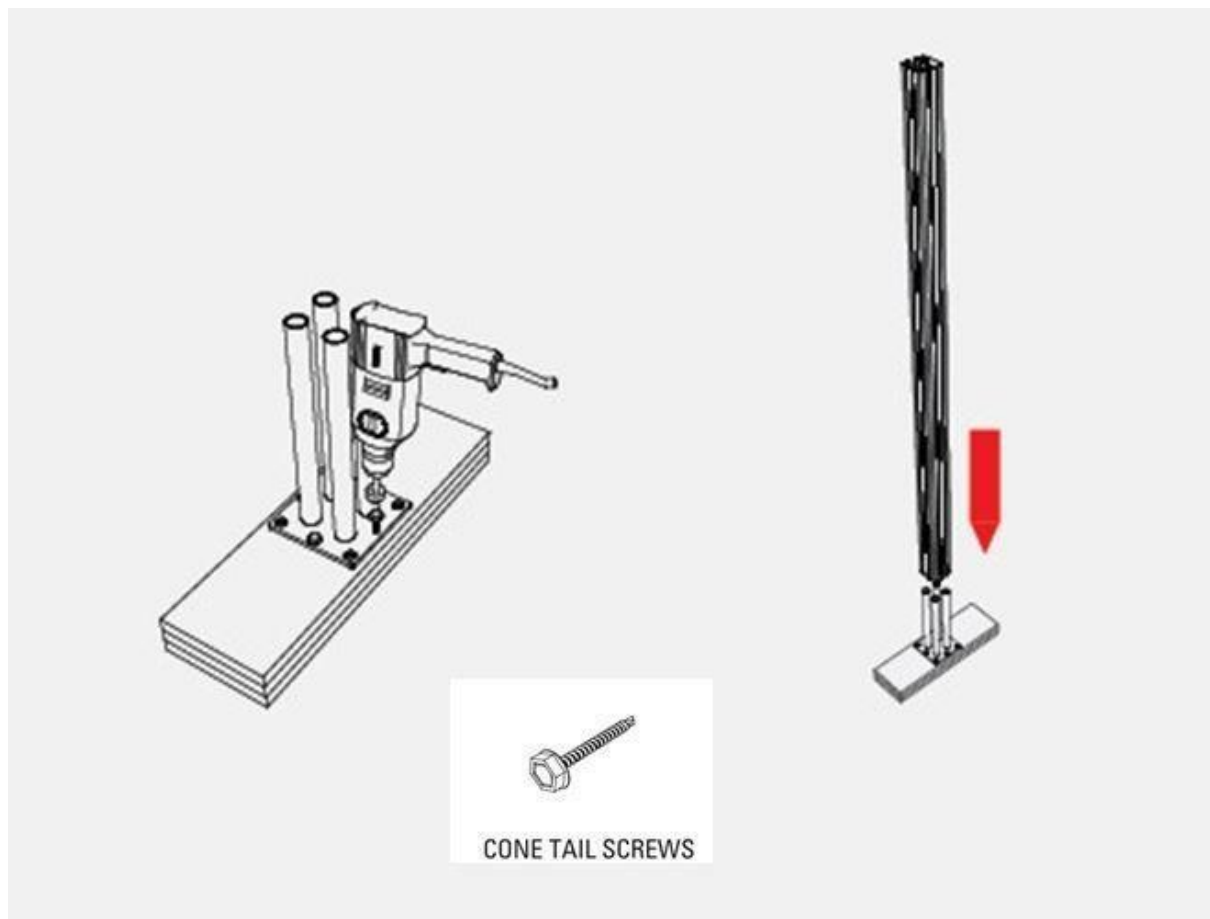
You must first measure the widths of the panels – each board needs to be cut to length by approx. 5 inches to suit the width of the rail. Lay a panel out and measure precisely before starting.

To use the bolt down post mounts, you will need a minimum of 10cm of stable concrete to affix down in to. Do not try to bolt near the edge of a concrete base as it will make it unstable.

Measure and mark the positions for your bases before clearly marking your drill holes. Using the anchor bolts supplied with the kit, bolt down securely before sliding the post mount over the bolts the firmly tighten the nuts down using washers.

Once fixed into place, slide the composite post over the steel post mount. Your posts will be a little overlong for a 6-foot panel (as there is an extra length allowance for concreting in) so measure properly, mark and trim down accordingly using a circular saw with a blade appropriate for composite material. If you do not feel confident doing this before installing the boards, they can be trimmed to height afterwards using a handsaw. Once all the boards and rails are installed, you should have approximately 10cm remaining at the top of the post.

When you have trimmed your post and secured over the post mount, you are ready to complete the steps from the installation guide below.



Step 2: Base Plates

The base plates cover the ground fixings of the composite posts and are simply installed by sliding over the post once fixed into the ground.

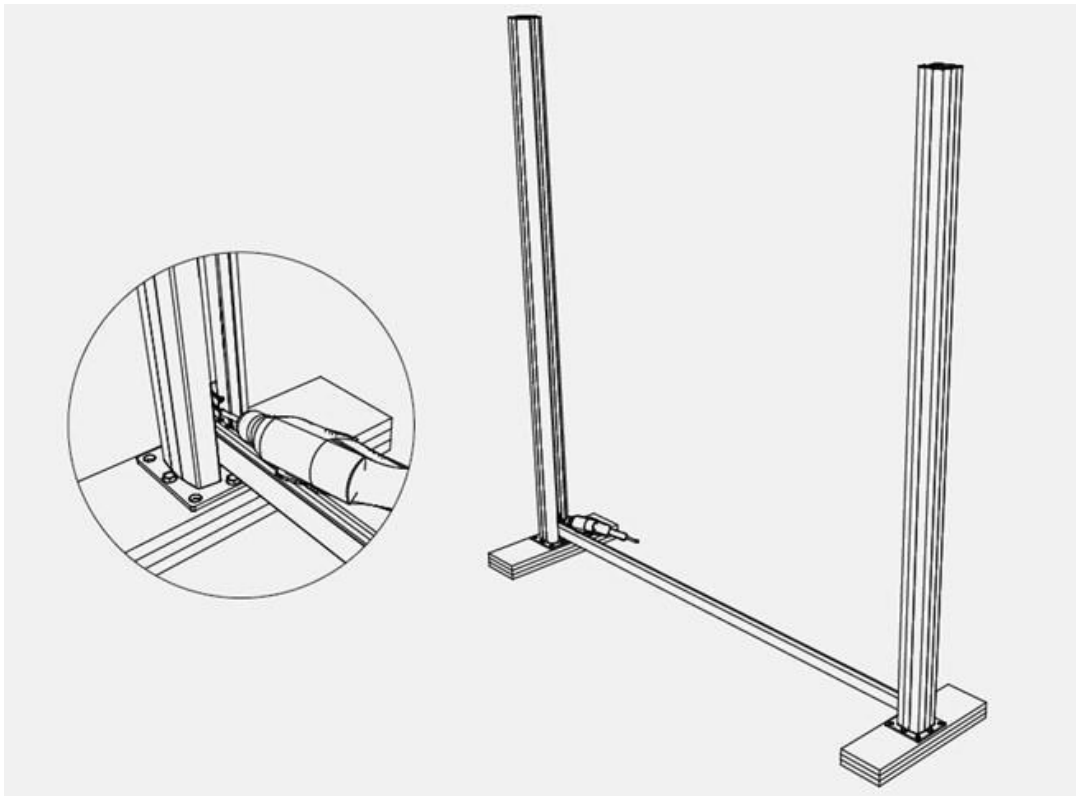
Step 3: Bottom Rail

The first step to building up your fence panel is to affix the bottom aluminium rail. The bottom rail can be identified as the shape at the top fits inside the hollow channel of the tongue and groove board.

Next, attach using the L brackets at the required height from the ground ensuring it is level before continuing.

The bottom of your fence panel does not want to be touching the ground so leave a decent space.

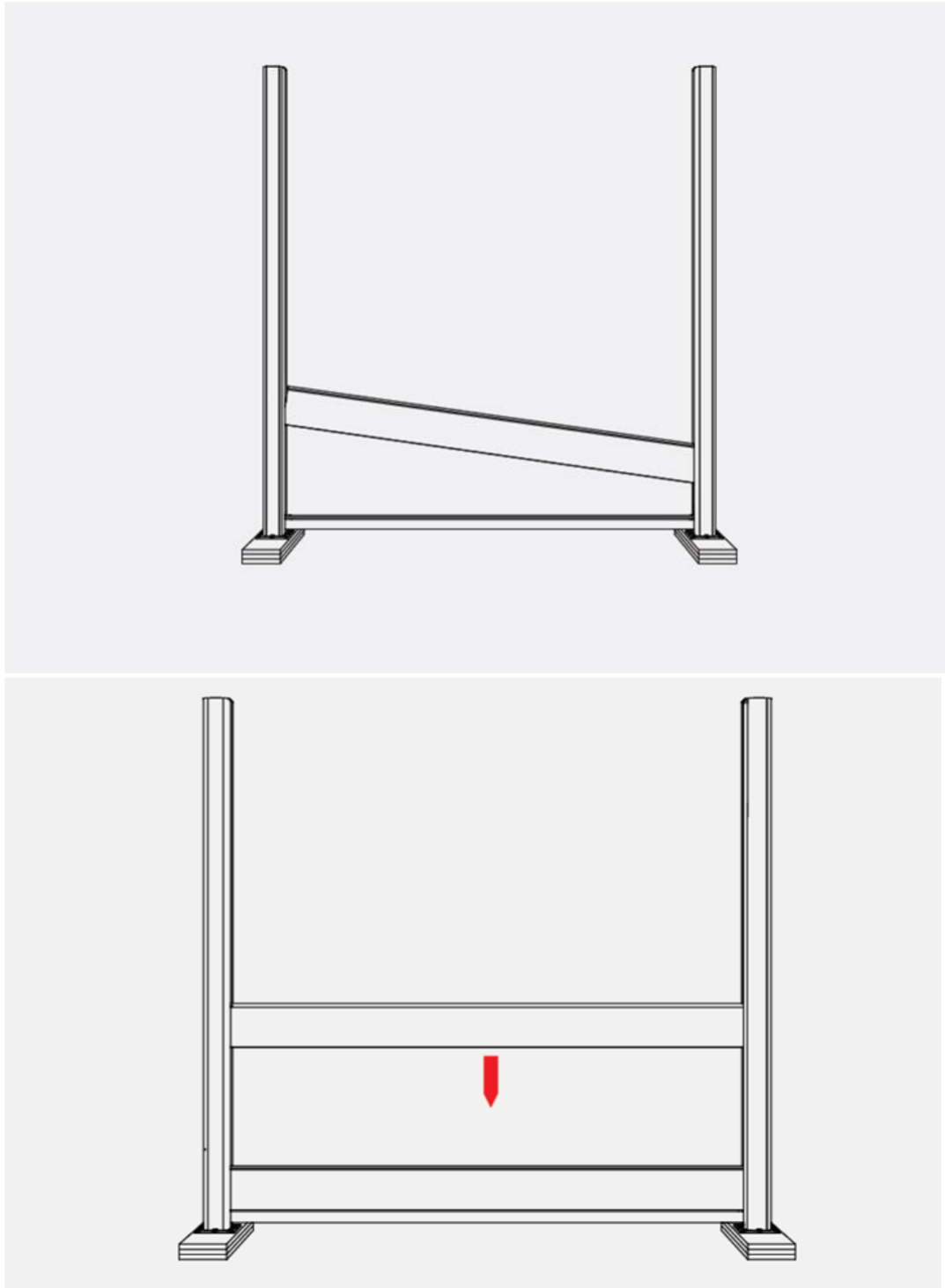
You may need to trim the rail to size (depending on how you have set your posts) – this can be done easily using a blade suitable for aluminium. Ensure you have allowed space to fix using the brackets.



Step 4: Tongue & Groove Boards

Simply slot the boards in one at a time. A 6ft panel will require 12 boards.

Each board needs to be cut to length by approx. 5 – ensure you have measured precisely before starting.

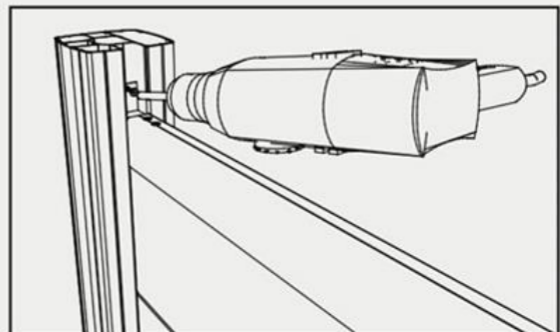
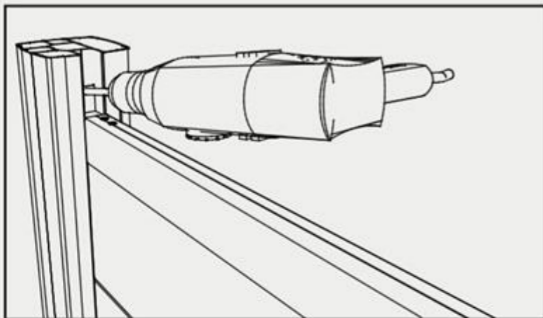


Step 5: Top Rail

Once your fence panels are in and levelness is established, you are ready to attach your top rail.

Using the provided L Brackets, drill pilot holes and then screw into the post on either side, securing firmly.

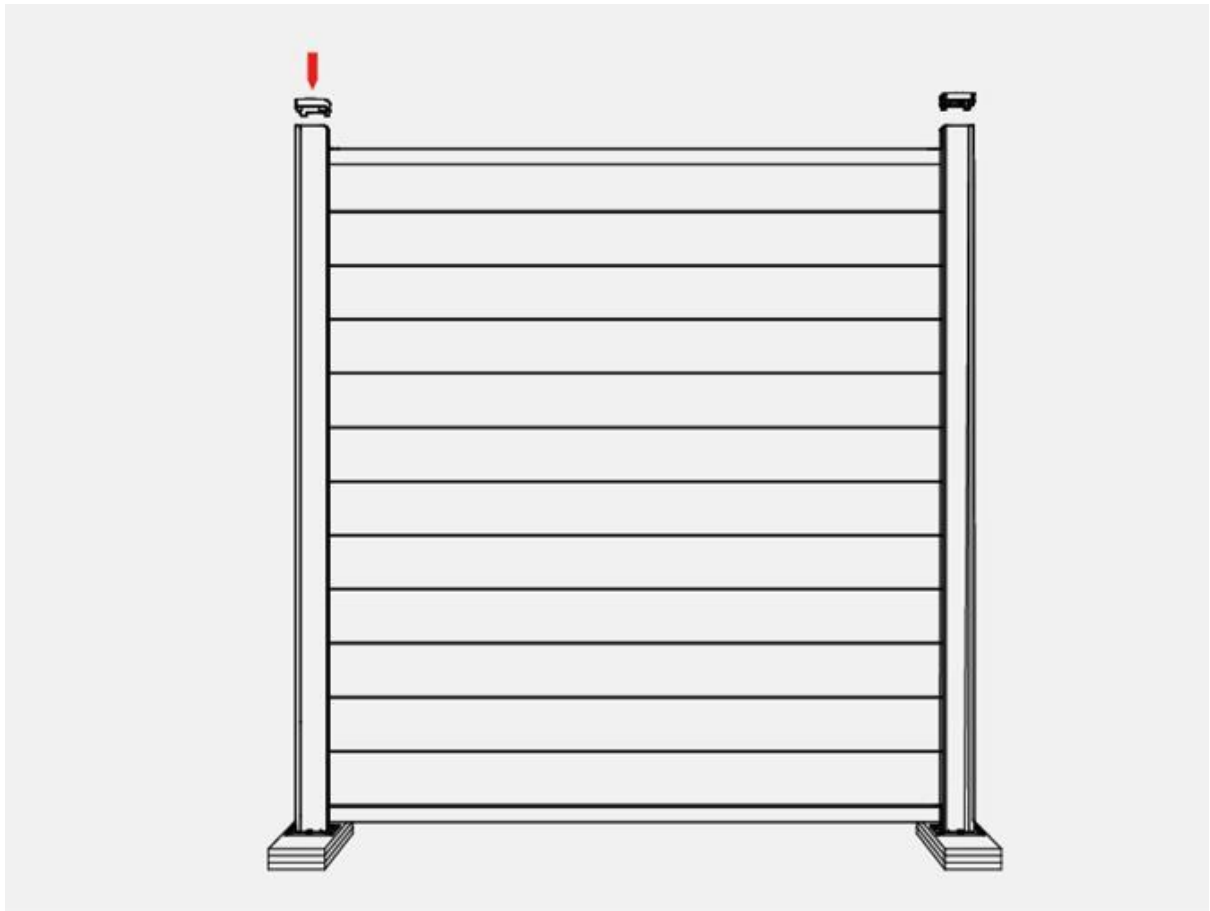
As with the base rail, you may need to trim this to length depending on how your posts have been set.



Step 6: Post Caps

The finishing touches are the post caps.

The caps simply push on from the top.



Caring for Your Composite Material

Our composite boards and posts are robust and built to last, but some care is required when moving, storing, installing, and cleaning the product. Please use this information as a guide to handling and maintaining the composite material before and after installation.

Handling & Storage

Ensure you have an adequate number of people (at least 2) on site to unload the delivery of composite boards and care is taken when lifting to avoid injury. Each board weighs approximately 4kg so do not attempt to carry too many boards at once.

When transporting boards by hand, tilt the boards on to their edges for extra support to prevent them sagging in the centre.

Do not slide or drag pieces across each other when loading or handling, this could damage the texture of the boards.

Store the boards flat, level, and off the ground always. To prevent sagging, use support battens underneath at a minimum of 500mm intervals.

Pallets can be stacked but no more than 2 pallets in one stack.

Until you are ready to install your composite boards, cover them to keep them clean of debris using a tarpaulin or similar opaque covering.

Ongoing Maintenance & Care

The best thing about using composite is that it is low maintenance which is usually the major decision factor when choosing the material. On occasion, you may want to give it a light clean to make sure your outside space looks fresh.

Cleaning

It is easy to clean your composite and can be done in a couple of simple methods:

- Jet washer – use a standard residential use power washer (do not use a commercially rated washer above 1500 psi pressure) and wash in the direction of the grain.
- Use a soft bristled brush and a mild detergent or household degreaser like washing up liquid.

Stain Removal

If you become aware of a stain on your composite panels, be sure to treat it as soon as it is noticed. If caught straight away a stain may not become embedded and can be treated with a mild soap or household washing up liquid. Give the area a good scrub and wipe down to remove the stain.

North Valley Composites cannot advise or recommend any high strength cleaning solutions, but you can find speciality composite cleaning solutions online.

Do not be tempted to sand back an area with a stain as this will damage the texture of the board.

If traditional cleaning methods do not remove the stain, then you could consider using a wire brush gently (going with the grain) until the stain is removed. Be aware that if you do this, there will be a slight colour mismatch until the newly scuffed area weathers to match the old surface; this will take up to 3 months.

Painting & Staining

It may be possible to paint or stain your composite panels, however, North Valley Composites cannot recommend the application of anything to the boards. If you do choose to paint or stain your boards, your warranty will be invalidated.

Scuffs, Knocks & Scratching

Minor surface abrasions, which may have happened during installation, will fade with time as the boards weather.

For larger scratches or knocks, you can use a wire brush (working in the direction of the grain) very gently to try to blend the area. Be aware that if you do this, there will be a slight colour mismatch until the newly scuffed area weathers to match the old surface; this will take up to 3 months.