Picket & Hawthorn
Installation - 2018

AL-MAR
Vinyl Products

WARNING!

Important Information regarding the care, use and warranty of this vinyl product is included in this set of instructions

It is imperative that the homeowner gets this document after installation

MANUFACTURERS & DISTRIBUTORS OF
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FENCE ● DECK ● RAIL ● DOCKS ●
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ROUTED – PICKET & HAWTHORNE FENCE INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

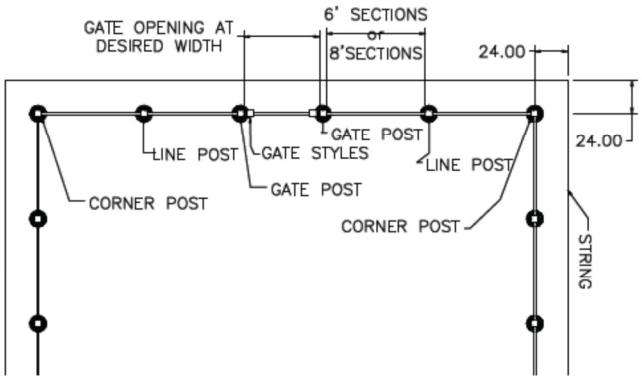
These instructions are to be used as general guidelines for the installation of your vinyl fence under normal installation conditions. Local conditions may exist which may require changes in the recommended methods of installation noted in these instructions such as extreme weather, bad soil conditions such as expansive soil or poorly compacted soil, extreme winds or heat, etc.

1. Before you begin, familiarize yourself with the installation instructions.
2. Tools Required for Installation:
   a) Measuring tape
   b) Wood or Metal Stakes
   c) Post-hole digger / auger
   d) Post-mix concrete
   e) String
   f) Hammer
   g) Shovel
   h) Spray paint
   i) Wheelbarrow
   j) Level
   k) Duct tape to seal rail ends
   l) Saw
   m) Drill
   n) Wrenches (adjust gate)

3. KNOW WHAT'S BELOW BEFORE YOU DIG! Most areas have a call center that you can call to have the utilities located prior to digging. Calling your local utility company is the easiest way to determine who to call. It is important to note that most utility companies will not locate and mark private utility lines that were installed by homeowners or contractors. Locating utility lines prior to digging may not only save your life, it may also release you of liability in many cases if a line is hit during installation that should have been located but was not. Prior to digging the holes, you should be prepared with emergency numbers to call in the event that a utility line is damaged.

4. FENCE LAYOUT:

When you purchased the fence you likely drew a layout and determined the amount of fencing you needed. It is very helpful to draw the layout of the fence prior to purchasing and installing your vinyl fence.



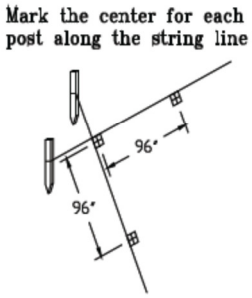
Once you have drawn the fence layout (sample above) and received your product, it is time to mark the locations to dig the holes for the posts.

To start, hammer a stake at each corner and end location of your fence. Pull a string line between the end and corner posts. This string line represents where the center of your fence will be. Many people offset the string line at this time so that it represents the edge of the fence line; this will save an extra step when you begin setting the posts (see Figure 1.1).

Determine gate post locations and set stakes at these locations. Once you have pulled the string line tight you can now mark the center of each post along the string line.

Mark the post hole location by beginning at one end of the fence and marking the center to center measurement of each post (your center to center measurement can be found on the specification sheet of the style fence purchased). For example, if you have a 96½" on center section, you will measure from the center of your first post 96½" and mark the ground with upside down marking paint. Continue marking down the string line until you get to the end post. See (Figure 1.1).

Figure 1.1

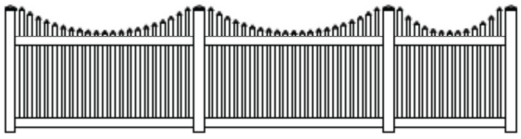


Important: The center to center measurement between any two posts should never exceed the center to center measurement of the fence style you purchase or your panels will not fit.

LAYOUT CUSTOMIZING:
Most projects will not have fence lines that are exactly 6' or 8' increments and will not come out perfectly when measuring. You will have to make one of a few choices.

Option 1 is to have a short section at the end of the line (Figure 1.2).

FIGURE 1.2



Option 2 is to make each section equal or shorten several of the sections on the fence so that you don't have a short section at the end

For years I chose option 2 and cut down each section to make every section equal but I found that most people don't notice the section that is short and it saves a lot of time and energy to choose Option 1.

5. DIGGING THE HOLES & INSTALLING THE POSTS:

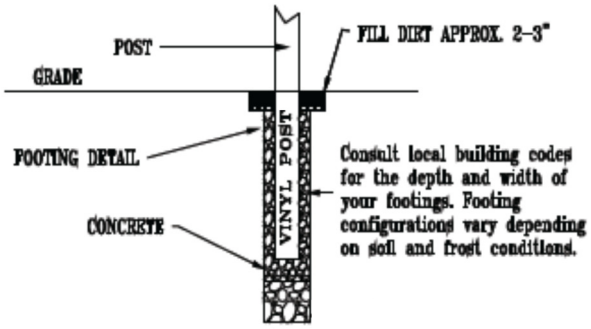
Once you have marked the fence post locations, you are ready to dig the holes.

Note: Different soil conditions and climates require different footing requirements. Seek guidance from local professionals and building codes to determine the proper depth and width of footing. In many areas, a 10" wide hole for a 5" post with a depth of 36-42" is standard and adequate but different regions and local codes vary. In frost regions longer posts are required to keep your fence firm in the ground. Please contact us if you are unsure whether your project requires a different length of post than the standard length and we can help you with your individual needs. In some regions, a layer of gravel at the bottom of the post holes is added for extra drainage.

Dig holes using a post-hole digger or an auger. See Figure 1.4. Make sure you have called and located all utility lines and that you adjust your fence
accordingly to any conflicts.

If your project is more than a few holes, you could contact your local small equipment tool rental center to rent a one or two man auger. These generally range from $60 – 95 a day to rent. If using a one or two man auger, make sure you familiarize yourself with the operator's manual to insure your safety.

FIGURE 1.4
POST HOLE DETAIL

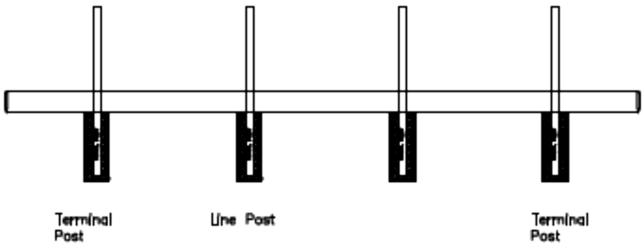


Safety Tip: When open holes exist, safety standards should be applied to properly protect the area and notify bystanders of the potential trip and fall hazards that exist with open holes in the ground. Clearly mark the area as a construction zone so others are notified of the dangers that exist.

Once the holes are dug, the easiest way to set posts in a straight line is by using a string line stretched from one end of the fence to the other. To do this, move the stakes you previously used to mark the hole locations over 2" if installing a 4" post, 2.5" if installing a 5" post. The reason you are moving the stakes over is because they were used to mark the center of the holes and now we need to move them over so the string

line is positioned where the outside of the post should be. See Figure 1.1 and 1.5.

FIGURE 1.5



To set the post in a straight line you want to level the post and then place the post just off the string line (you do not want the post touching the string line).

Fill the hole around the post with concrete up to 2" – 3" from top of the hole while keeping the post level and just off of the string.

Note: If the top of hole is not perfectly formed, do not pour concrete above the point where the holes become deformed. Frost will grab the concrete and heave the post up in the winter. If hole is deformed more than 12" from the surface, then sonotube (available at any lumber yard), must be used to contain concrete for top portion of hole that is deformed.

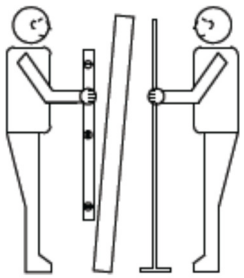
Plum, square and level the post into position.

You will typically set the post height so the bottom rail has two inches of clearance from the ground. This bottom gap can be adjusted to fit your project's needs.

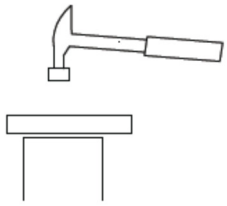
Continue setting the next post, making sure that distance between the posts matches the measurement of the specification sheet for the style you purchased. Spacing varies depending on type of fence you purchased. Please see specification sheet of your style of fence purchased. You can get these spec sheets by contacting us.
Note: At the end of the runs, sections may need to be shortened to maintain desired layout.

Help Tip: It is important to look often down the line of your fence to make sure that the fence is straight and level and plum. If something looks a little off, go back and adjust as needed. Once you complete a section of fence it is very easy to push a fence post one way or another and tamp at the base of the post to ensure that the top of the fence is straight and level plumb. See Figure 1.6

Figure 1.6

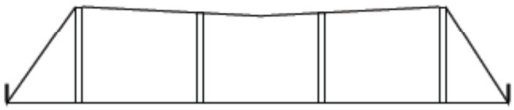


Getting the Height of the Post Right:
A method commonly used when setting posts is to set the posts close to the right height but primarily focusing on getting the posts straight in a line (post is level and just off the string). Once this has been completed and prior to the concrete setting up, the installer, with the assistance of another will look down the line and pull the post up a little or knock it down by tapping on the top of the post with a block of wood and hammer. The block of wood will help to prevent damage to the vinyl post.



String lines can also be used to help keep the post level but remember that string lines sometimes sag in the middle so it is important to visually look down the top of the fence to make sure the fence is straight. See Figure 1.7.

Figure 1.7



The posts can also be set the right height by placing the bottom rails in the posts and using a level to make sure the posts are set level. When the level is placed on the rails you will know whether to lower raise or lower a particular post. Rails can be blocked up off the ground to hold posts at the correct elevation.

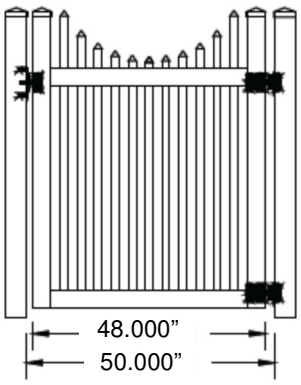
Grade Note: Contact your fence supplier prior to ordering your fence if your fence grade rises or slopes more than 5%. The fabricator will adjust for this condition by enlarging the routed holes on the posts and rails or make special stepped posts.

GATE POSTS:
Gate posts should be set at the same time the other fence posts are being installed and using the same methods.

The spacing between the two gate posts is VERY IMPORTANT depending on the size of gate you purchased and extra care should be taken to make sure that gate posts are set at the right distance between the gate posts.

Leveling and plumbing the post is essential to the proper operation of the gate. If gate posts are not level, you will notice it when the gates have been installed. Un-level posts also prevent the gates from operating properly.

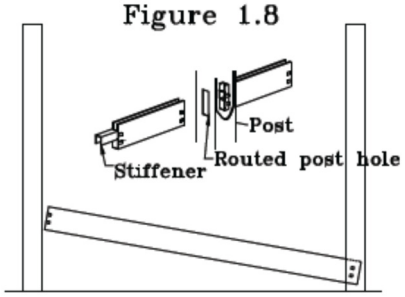
The distance between the posts for a gate should be the width of the gate you purchased plus hardware. For example, a 4' wide gate will be 4' wide. Actual space between gate posts should be 1½" to 2" wider than gate.



Make sure rebar is installed in the gate post(s) while the concrete is still wet. See Fig 8.12

INSTALLING THE BOTTOM RAILS
Insert the bottom rail into the post, maintaining an equal distance on both sides of the rail. If the section you are installing is smaller than a standard panel, you will need to cut the rail to make it the right length for that section. To do this, measure the distance between the posts and add 4" for the desired rail length. The rail must extend into the center of post on both posts. The stiffener in the bottom rail will also need to be cut to the same length as the rail. See Figure 1.8

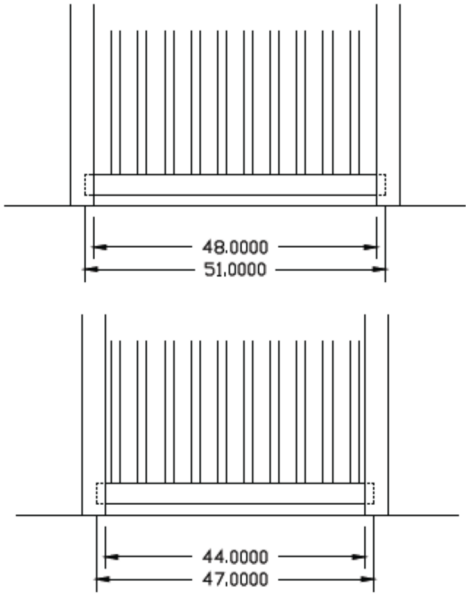
Figure 1.8



The rail stiffener needs to be cut with heavy duty tin snips, hacksaw, or circular saw/sawzall with a metal blade.

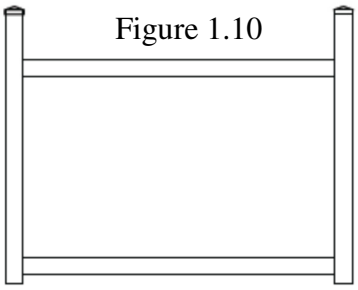
Be sure not to track the metal filings from the saw onto a deck or other surface. The filings are sharp and will cause rust marks overnight.

Note: When cutting a picket fence rail it is important to make sure that the distance from the first and last picket hole in the rail are equal in distance to each post. This process involves cutting both ends of the rail equally. See below



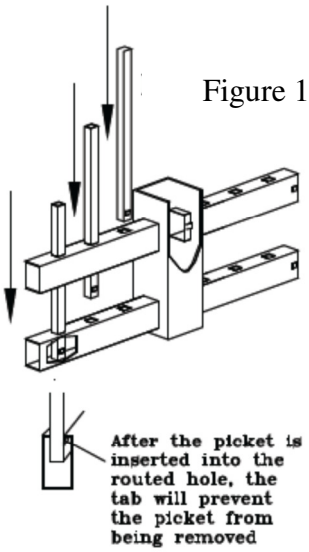
INSTALLING THE TOP RAILS
Slide the top rail into place as shown in Figure 1.10

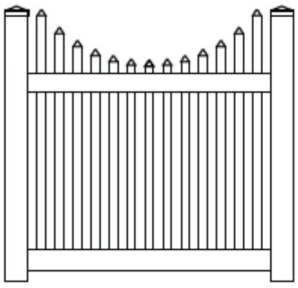
Figure 1.10



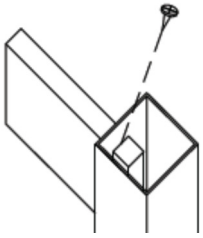
INSTALLING THE PICKETS
Insert the pickets into the bottom rail of each section by starting at one side and inserting the pickets in the bottom rail. See Figure 1.11

Figure 1.11





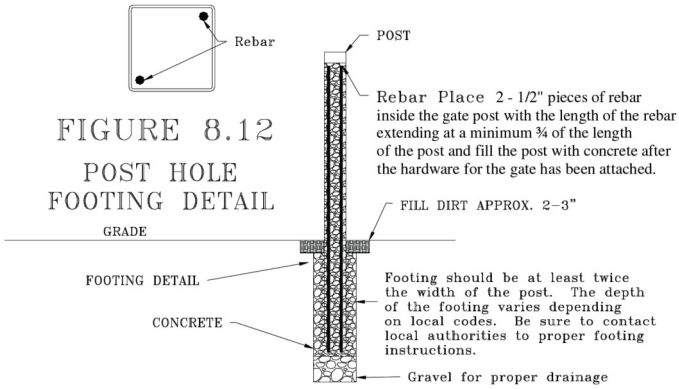
Secure the top rail by placing a set screw into the rail and next to the inside wall of the post. Make sure section is centered between posts and pickets are vertical before setting screws.



GATE INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

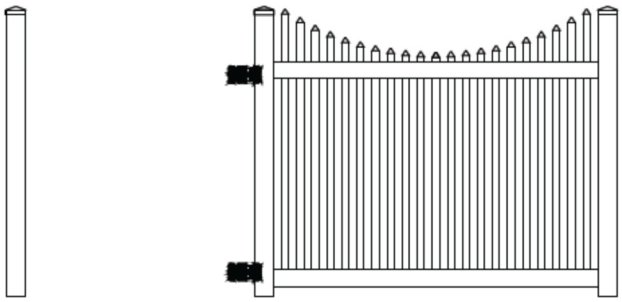
There are many methods of making gate posts stronger such as adding steel inserts and or concrete to the inside of gate posts.

We prefer the method of adding 2 - ½" pieces of rebar to the post and filling the post with concrete. We have used this method on thousands of gates and we feel this method has been tried and proven. (See Figure 8.12)



Prior to filling the posts with concrete it is important to screw the gate hardware on the gate posts so you are not screwing into a post filled with concrete. Gate hardware placement does not have to be exact and placement should look something similar to the gate specification diagram provided. At this point the gate hardware should be secured only to the post that will hold the gate in place and not the gate itself. (See Figure 8.13)

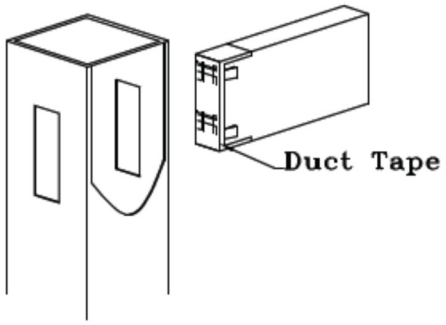
Figure 8.13



WARNING!

If filling 2 adjacent posts with concrete, a drain MUST be drilled in bottom rail (through all internal ribs & stiffener) to let water out of rail. Failure to do this will result in the bottom rail being damaged by freezing water in the winter.

When mixing concrete for gate posts it is important to get a good consistency, too thick and the concrete will not form properly as it is rocky and doesn't fill into the post properly, too soupy and the concrete will run down the rails and not be strong enough as the concrete is diluted with water (many put tape on the end of the rails that insert into gate posts to prevent the concrete from flowing back into the rail).



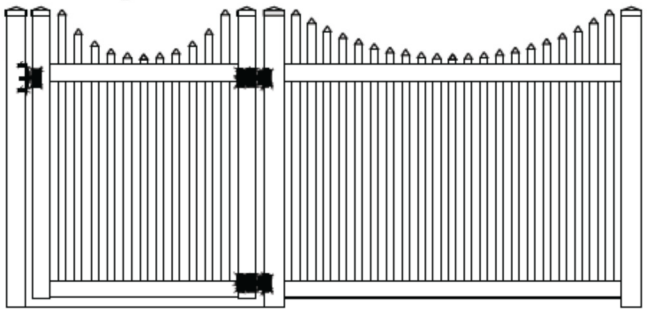
Once you have the right consistency, pour the concrete inside the post and fill the post with concrete. Typically installers use a large cup or funnel. Concrete will likely spill down the side of the post during this stage of the installation. Concrete can be wiped off easily if done before the concrete is allowed to cure. Typically we let the concrete dry a little on the outside of the post as we have found it wipes off easier with a dry cloth. If the concrete is on the vinyl for extended period the concrete can be difficult to remove. When concrete is wet and with the help of a little water the concrete will wipe off with a cloth or a sponge.

Let the concrete in the post cure prior to hanging the gate. Cure time varies from geographic location and time of year. During summer months in most locations, this can be the next day. During winter months we have seen this time vary from 1-4 days.

Alternative concrete products may be used such as quick curing concrete to speed up this process. Another option is to use a metal stiffener inside of the gate post in lieu of concrete. We have these available and can see them as requested.

Once the concrete has cured, the gate can be attached to the hardware by adjusting the hinges to the desired gate width and holding or blocking the gate up at the desired height and screwing the hinges to the gate. (See Figure 8.14)

Scallop Pickets Gate
Figure 8.14



Secure the hinges to the gate with the provided screws and adjust the hinges to make sure the gaps on both sides of the gate are equal and the gate is level and swinging properly.

Attach the latch to the gate. The latch pin should fit loose into the latch.

Secure Caps:
Glue caps onto top of post with PVC glue, making sure not to spill or drip glue onto the fence, as certain glues will sometimes yellow.

Enjoy your fence; see maintenance instructions as to proper maintenance care for your vinyl fence.

HOMELAND® VINYL PRODUCTS, INC.

Complete and mail in now.

1. Complete this Warranty Registration Form
2. Tear off
3. Place in envelope with proof of purchase.

Mail to:
Homeland Vinyl Products, Inc.
P.O. Box 170729
Birmingham, AL 35217-0729
Attn: Warranty Department

WARRANTY LIMITATIONS

THIS WARRANTY REPLACES, SUPERSEDES, AND EXCLUDES ALL OTHER WARRANTIES, ORAL, WRITTEN OR IMPLIED, ARISING BY LAW, COURSE OF DEALING, USAGE OF TRADE, CUSTOM OR OTHERWISE, INCLUDING, WITHOUT LIMITATION, ANY IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE.

IN NO EVENT SHALL HOMELAND VINYL BE LIABLE FOR CONSEQUENTIAL OR INCIDENTAL DAMAGES OF ANY KIND, INCLUDING ANY DAMAGE TO STRUCTURES, THEIR CONTENTS, OR ANY PERSON THEREIN, RESULTING FROM A BREACH OF THIS WARRANTY OR THE PURCHASE, INSTALLATION, OWNERSHIP, OR USE OF HOMELAND VINYL PRODUCTS.

HOMELAND VINYL DOES NOT AUTHORIZE ITS FIELD REPRESENTATIVES, DISTRIBUTORS, OR DEALERS TO MAKE ANY CHANGE OR MODIFICATION TO THIS WARRANTY.

PURCHASER'S EXCLUSIVE REMEDY AND HOMELAND VINYL'S EXCLUSIVE LIABILITY FOR ANY BREACH OF WARRANTY IS LIMITED TO WHAT APPEARS IN THIS DOCUMENT.

SOME STATES DO NOT ALLOW LIMITATIONS ON, OR THE EXCLUSION OF, IMPLIED WARRANTIES, OR INCIDENTAL OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES, SO THE ABOVE LIMITATIONS OR EXCLUSIONS MAY NOT APPLY TO YOU. THIS WARRANTY GIVES YOU SPECIFIC LEGAL RIGHTS, AND YOU MAY HAVE OTHER RIGHTS THAT VARY FROM STATE TO STATE.

HOMELAND® VINYL PRODUCTS, INC.

Homeland Vinyl Products, Inc.
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C1141-RevA 17-355 - POP

HOMELAND® VINYL PRODUCTS, INC. **FENCE & RAIL**

LIMITED WARRANTY

HOMELAND VINYL PRODUCTS, INC
FENCE AND RAIL LIMITED WARRANTY

WHO AND WHAT ARE COVERED BY THIS WARRANTY
This warranty is given to (1) the original purchaser, or (2) the owner(s) of the property at the time of installation, if different from the original purchaser (collectively, the "Purchaser") of vinyl fence and rail profiles manufactured by Homeland Vinyl Products, Inc. ("Homeland Vinyl"). For purposes of this warranty, a "Residential Purchaser" shall refer to a single-family residential homeowner and a "Commercial Purchaser" shall refer to any Purchaser other than a Residential Purchaser. Subject to the exclusions and limitations set forth herein, Homeland Vinyl warrants to the Purchaser that its vinyl fence and rail profiles (the "Products") will be free from manufacturing defects – including peeling, flaking, blistering, rotting and corroding – when subject to normal and proper use.

WARRANTY PERIOD
The warranty period is for the life of a residential purchaser (30 years for a Commercial Purchaser). The warranty automatically terminates upon the sale of the property or death of the Purchaser.

WARRANTY REMEDIES
Should any covered defect occur during the warranty period, Homeland Vinyl will, at its option, repair or provide replacement Products for the defective Products. In lieu of repair or providing replacement Products, Homeland Vinyl also reserves the right to refund the amount paid by the Purchaser for the original Products and such refund shall fully discharge all obligations and liabilities of Homeland Vinyl under this warranty. ***In no event shall Homeland Vinyl be liable or responsible for labor charges or other expenses arising from or related to the installation or removal of either the original or replacement Products.***

WARRANTY EXCLUSIONS
This warranty covers only manufacturing defects in material or workmanship of Homeland Vinyl and, without limitation, does not include any failure, defects, expenses, or damages attributable to:

Failure to provide reasonable and necessary maintenance;

Improper installation (including inadequate reinforcement of finished products);

Bowing of pickets (for Homewood® products, Homeland Vinyl requires installing a midrail and

Continued Inside

attaching U-channel trim the fence posts in order to reduce the natural tendency for fence panels to bow due to heat build-up);

Distortion due to exposure to heat sources, including but not limited to building or pavement heat build-up, outdoor grills, and reflected sunlight from windows, doors or other surfaces;

Color change due to normal weathering. Normal weathering is defined as exposure to sunlight and extremes of weather and atmosphere that will cause any colored surface to gradually fade, chalk, or accumulate dirt or stains. When sunlight is partially blocked by a roof, trees, awnings or the like, uneven weathering may occur. Homeland Vinyl shall have sole discretion to determine, based on reasonable criteria, whether the Products are undergoing normal weathering;

Color or pattern variation on any variegated Products;

Color or pattern variation between any replacement Products and remaining original Products. Homeland Vinyl reserves the right to discontinue or modify any product line or color without notifying the Purchaser. If the original Product is not available, Homeland Vinyl may choose to provide replacement Products of equal value or quality;

Discoloration or other damage caused by air pollution, mildew, exposure to chemicals (including, but not limited to sunscreens, insect repellants, acids or bases, rust, lime, fertilizers, herbicides, or solvents);

Misuse, abuse, neglect or improper shipping, handling or storage;

Damage caused by horses or other large animals;

Use of accessories or other components which are incompatible with the Products;

Movement, distortion, settling or collapse of the ground or structure on which the Products are installed;

Impact of foreign objects, fire, earthquake, flood, lightning, tornado, hail or other casualty or act of God;

Damage caused by other circumstances and causes beyond Homeland Vinyl's control;

Any other cause not involving manufacturing defects in the Products.

This warranty does not apply to any Product which has been painted, varnished, or on which any other substance not approved by Homeland Vinyl has been applied over the original finish.

See important limitations on back.

REGISTRATION AND TRANSFER OF WARRANTY

To obtain coverage under this warranty, the warranty must be registered within thirty (30) days after completion of the installation of the Products. The attached registration card must be completed and returned along with proof of purchase to: Homeland Vinyl Products, Inc., P.O. Box 170729, Birmingham, AL 35217-0729, Attn: Warranty Registration.

This warranty is not transferable, with the following exception: The warranty may be transferred only by the original Purchaser and only one (1) time to a subsequent buyer of the property on which the Products were originally installed. Within thirty (30) days from the date of the transfer of the property, the original Purchaser shall deliver to Homeland Vinyl a written Application for Transfer of Warranty, along with proof of the original purchase of Homeland Vinyl products. During the first ten (10) years after the date of original installation of the Products, a duly transferred warranty shall remain in full force and effect as to all covered Products. After such ten year period, Homeland Vinyl's responsibility under such duly transferred warranty shall decrease by five percent (5%) per year. At no time, however, shall Homeland Vinyl's responsibility under this warranty be less than ten percent (10%) of the original Purchaser's price for the Products. Time is of the essence, and failure to comply with the foregoing requirements will terminate this warranty and relieve Homeland Vinyl of any further obligation under this warranty.

WHAT THE PURCHASER MUST DO

A claim under this warranty must be reported in writing, with proof of purchase, to Homeland Vinyl Products, Inc., P.O. Box 170729, Birmingham, AL 35217-0729, Attn: Warranty Department within thirty (30) days of the date that the defect is first discovered or reasonably could have been discovered. Purchaser must include proof of purchase and a statement describing the claimed defect. Homeland Vinyl may request additional information. Homeland Vinyl will then have a reasonable time to inspect or, at Homeland Vinyl's option, to have the product or a sample of the product shipped at the Purchaser's expense to Homeland Vinyl for inspection and analysis of the claimed defect. Homeland Vinyl shall be the sole judge of whether the product is defective and whether the defect is due to manufacturing.

If Homeland Vinyl determines that the claim is within the terms of this Limited Warranty, then Homeland Vinyl will, at its option, provide replacement Products or provide a purchase price refund for the Product under the terms and limitations described herein. In the event of repair or replacement, the original warranty shall apply to the repaired or replaced portion of the Products, and will extend for the balance of the warranty period in effect at the time the material proved defective.

This warranty is effective for purchases of Products on or after February 1, 2018.

LIMITED WARRANTY REGISTRATION AND VALIDATION SYSTEM

Date of Installation: _____

All information must be complete in order to place the warranty on your purchase into effect. Complete only one registration per installation and product and MAIL WITHIN THIRTY (30) DAYS, along with a copy of your proof of purchase.

Purchaser Name: _____ Telephone: _____

Address of Installation: _____

_____

Product Supplier name: _____

Description of Products: _____ TYPE, SIZE, COLOR, QUANTITY, ETC.

_____

_____

I have read and accept the terms and conditions of the Homeland Vinyl Products Limited Warranty.

Date: _____ Signature of Purchaser: _____