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ACP Info Sheet: Product Handling Guide

INSTALLING CONCRETE POSTS

Use this document as a guide as to how to handle ACP concrete fence posts when building a fence.

Recommended method to hit in a concrete fence post

1. Drill a pilot hole about 80 to 100 mm to the depth you require the post to be placed into the ground
2. Ensure the pilot hole is vertical.
3. In drought conditions wet the post or the ground with about a litre of water. (Old fencers trick to make the concrete post slide into the ground easier).
4. Place the driving cap with the appropriate rubber over the post to prevent the metal driver hitting the post.
5. Gently tap the post into the ground using small strokes of the driving hammer.

The table below shows the recommended height the driver hammer should be lifted to depending on the hammer head weight.

		HEIGHT HAMMER HEAD LIFTED TO			
		300mm or 1ft	600mm or 2ft	900mm or 3ft	1200mm or 4ft
WEIGHT OF HAMMER HEAD	180kg or 400lb	529kg	1.1 ton	*1.6 ton	2.1 ton
	272kg or 600lb	800kg	*1.6 ton	2.4 ton	3.2 ton
	362kg or 800lb	*1.1 ton	2.1 ton	3.2 ton	4.2 ton
	450kg or 990lb	*1.3 ton	2.6 ton	3.9 ton	5.3 ton

***ACP recommended heights and weight ratio and settings**

In some circumstances you are able to hit the posts directly into the ground without using a pilot hole. This will depend on numerous factors like soil condition, how wet the soil is, if there are rocks, your experience at driving the concrete posts into the ground and the way you use your driving hammer. Therefore, we recommend you use a pilot hole which is drilled vertically to the depth you require the concrete posts put into the ground.

What about in rocky country?

If you're in rocky country, then by using a pilot hole you can judge the depth the post can go into the ground by the depth of the pilot hole drilled.

Remember concrete is not like timber where you just hit the post into the ground and cut the top off and drill the holes.

You have to think backwards and cut the bottom of the post off, to the required length before hitting into the ground. Therefore, measure how deep the pre drilled hole is and cut the bottom of the post off.

Cutting the post to the desired length is easily done using a concrete cutting blade on a grinder.

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Pulling the wire

1. [ACP] recommend pulling one wire strand at a time.
2. When pulling the wire through the holes we recommend you brace the first fence post to help keep it stable.
3. Ensure the wire roll is level with the hole you are pulling the wire through.
4. Pull the wire through at a gentle and even pace. This will eliminate the wire whipping or becoming stuck.
5. When pulling more than one strand at a time, (not recommended) ensure the wire coils unravel in the same direction helping to eliminate them getting tangled.

How to handle the concrete posts.

1. We recommend you handle the posts as little as possible to prevent fatigue and injury.
2. As the posts are all over 20kg we recommend you complete a thorough risk assessment before attempting to manually handle the posts. Wherever possible, use a mechanical aid for the heavy lifting and moving the posts.
3. At least two people should be used when handling the concrete fence posts.
4. When placing the posts on the ground beside the prepared holes we recommend you DO NOT drop or throw the posts onto the ground, as this may cause a fracture through the concrete post.

Safety and risk assessment

Due to the potential of the concrete posts shattering when being installed or being handled we recommend you do a thorough risk assessment before installation begins.

Ensure the area you're working in is clear of obstructions and other people.

Ensure workers use the appropriate personal protection equipment. We recommend as a minimum; head protection, eye protection, hand protection, foot protection and long trousers to avoid incidents and injury from any debris during installation. By taking the appropriate personal protection you are able to minimise injury. Ensure other people around you are also aware of the dangers and are also using appropriate PPE.

ACP GUIDE: ALWAYS ENSURE YOU UNDERTAKE A THOROUGH RISK ASSESSMENT AND MITIGATE THOSE RISKS BEFORE HANDLING THE [ACP] CONCRETE FENCE POSTS.