Australian **Concrete Posts** Pty Ltd
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Australian ACP ConcretePosts

Strong | Durable | Driveable

ACP Info Sheet: Product Guide

HANDLING & TRANSPORTING CONCRETE POSTS

Use this document as a guide as to how to handle, Pack and Transport the ACP concrete fence posts.

Australian Concrete Posts Pty Ltd [ACP] fence posts are stacked in two rows and strapped into bundles or packs. They are strapped with metal strapping onto two timber gluts underneath for ease of storage and transport. This method minimizes damage to posts during moving and handling.
The Fence Posts are in bundles of thirty, and the Strainer Posts are in bundles of six.

Australian Concrete Posts Pty Ltd [ACP] strongly recommend that all handling of the concrete posts be done using mechanical aids. Mechanical aids such as, forklift or tractor with forks to lift and manoeuvre the posts from truck to delivery site. This method must also be employed when the bundles have been unstrapped and opened.
The bundle weight must be observed when using lifting machinery to offload, to make sure that the machinery is capable of lifting the pack weight. See the table below for post codes and approximate weight for each bundle.

AUSTRALIAN CONCRETE FENCE POSTS PACK SPECIFICATIONS			
30 PACK FENCE POSTS			
CODE	**DESCRIPTION**	**WEIGHT** (kg)	**DIMENSIONS** (mm) Length x Width x Height
FP01	6.4ft 5 Hole Pack	1050kg	1900x980x340
FP02 & FP03	7ft 5 Hole Pack	1200kg	2150x980x340
FP04	7.2ft 4 Hole (130mm) Pack	1230kg	2200x980x340
FP22	7.2ft 4 Hole (110mm) Pack	1020kg	1900x980x300
6 PACK STRAINER POSTS			
SP01	7ft Strainer	640kg	2150x800x250
SP02	8ft Strainer	715kg	2400x800x250
SP04	10ft Strainer	900kg	3000x800x250

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Stacking the bundles onto ground

Due care and attention must be given when restacking bundles and when the strapping is removed.

The ground conditions to stack or store a bundle of concrete posts should be stable and even ground.

The bundles must be stacked level and straight and the load bearers should be in line.

See pictures on right hand side as a guideline.

Off-loading should be carried out by authorised, competent and trained personnel. Ensure that area is clear of obstructions and away from members of the public and other trades. Due consideration to manual handing should be taken in handling both the concrete fence posts and strainer posts.

How to handle the concrete posts

Safe Work Australia (www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au) can provide guidance on manual handling.

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.

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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.

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CURING TIME OF CONCRETE POSTS

Use this document as a guide of when the prestressed concrete posts are ready to use or drive in the ground.

Australian Concrete Posts Pty Ltd [ACP] fence posts are made with Boral premixed concrete. Poured at 40MPA. When the concrete posts are made, each batch is marked with the date of manufacture.

For the optimum strength of the concrete post, they must be allowed to "cure" for at least 28 days from date of pouring. Therefore, the posts are NOT ready to be driven or hit with a post driver or hammer, until that minimum 28 days has passed.

Threading and tensioning wire through the concrete post BEFORE the minimum 28 day curing time is also not recommended.

Unlike timber fence posts, with a concrete fence posts, the longer the time passes from date of manufacture, the stronger the post will become.

The date of manufacture of the post is written in black crayon in the following format and can be seen on the side of each strapped bundle. The Fence Posts are in bundles of thirty, and the Strainer Posts are in bundles of six.

YY/MM/DD

Y = YEAR

M = MONTH

D – DAY

PICTURED ON RIGHT: Date of manufacture is in black crayon on the top of each pack of posts.

ACP GUIDE: ALLOW 28 DAYS FROM DATE OF MANUFACTURE BEFORE DRIVING, HAMMERING, OR TENSIONING WIRE ON [ACP] POSTS.

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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 400ld	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.

5. We recommend you handle the posts as little as possible to prevent fatigue and injury.
6. 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.
7. At least two people should be used when handling the concrete fence posts.
8. 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.

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