

PART 4: INSTALLING CONCRETE POSTS

Recommended method to hit in a concrete fence post

1. Drill a pilot hole about 150 to 200 mm (3 to 4 inch) 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. If using a post driver: Place the driving cap with the appropriate rubber over the post to prevent the metal driver hitting the post. Ensure the driving cap is placed flat/square on the top of the post to avoid chipping the tops.
5. Gently tap the post into the ground using small strokes of the driving hammer.

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.

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.

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

PART 5: CONTACT US

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PRODUCT HANDLING GUIDE

Use this document as a guide as our recommendations of how to handle, pack, transport and install Australian Concrete Fence and Strainer Posts.

This guide and its four parts must be read thoroughly before any installation and handling of concrete posts.

Most importantly, if you have any issues, questions or feedback about our products, how to use them or your order, please do not hesitate to contact us directly. We are available on 02 66828614 or 0474 774 048.

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PART I: CURING TIME OF CONCRETE POSTS

Australian Concrete Posts Pty Ltd [ACP] fence posts are made with Boral premixed concrete which is 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, however, posts can be augured in and earth rammed.

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 crayon in the following format and can be seen on the side of each strapped pack. The Fence Posts are in packs of thirty, and the Strainer Posts are in packs 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.

PART 2: HANDLING & TRANSPORTING CONCRETE POSTS

How the posts are packed and strapped

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

Australian Concrete Posts Pty Ltd [ACP] strongly recommend that all handling of the concrete posts be done using 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 packs have been unstrapped and opened.

The pack 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 opposite for product codes and approximate pack weights.

ACP PACK SPECIFICATIONS			
30 PACK OF FENCE POSTS			
CODE	DESCRIPTION	WEIGHT (kg)	DIMENSIONS (mm) L x W x H
FP01	6.4ft 5 Hole Pack	1050kg	1900x980x340
FP03	7ft 5 Hole Pack	1200kg	2150x980x340
FP04	7.2ft 4 Hole Pack	1230kg	2200x980x340
FP25	2.4m (8ft) Pack	1110kg	2400x980x300
FP26	3m (10ft) Pack	1390kg	3000x980x300
6 PACK OF STRAINER POSTS			
SP01	7ft Strainer	640kg	2150x800x250
SP02	8ft Strainer	715kg	2400x800x250
SP04	10ft Strainer	900kg	3000x800x250

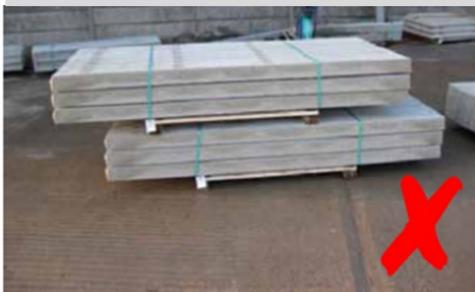
Stacking the packs onto ground

Due care and attention must be given when restacking packs and when the strapping is removed. The ground conditions to stack or store a pack of concrete posts should be stable and even ground. The packs must be stacked level and straight and the load bearers should line up. See pictures below as a guideline.

Products must not be stacked on top of each other like this keeping load bearers in line.



Products must not be stacked unevenly.



Products must not be stacked on top of each other like this as the load bearers are not in line



The forks must be widened to be as close to the load bearer as possible.



The forks must not be close together when picking up packs



Products must not be taken out of packs using the forklift, they will damage the unit.

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

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

Manual handling of 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.



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.

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PART 3: DRIVING CAPS FOR CONCRETE POSTS

ACP prestressed concrete posts are driveable with a standard post driver. Percussion drivers, pneumatic drivers and standard thumper are all able to be used to drive the concrete post. Thousands of posts are driven into the ground across all sorts of ground across Australia. The variations between locations, conditions and machines it will require a bit of patience and trial and error to get it just right for your fence line. In short, ACP recommend a thick dense rubber material be used to cushion the direct impact on top of the post when driving them in.



Choose the correct driving cap for your machine For a drop hammer, thumper style, use the ACP Driving caps. For a percussion style, pneumatic, vibrating style driver, you will need a manufactured driving head for your specific machine. ACP Driving Cap is **NOT** designed to be used with a percussion driver.

Driving cap for drop hammer drivers. ACP have developed a driving cap is suitable for a drop hammer style driver. The cap is simply placed on top of the post when the hammer comes down. The ACP Driving Cap holds a layer of 20mm rubber in place. The layer of rubber padding inside minimises impact on post. Refer to the table below for hammer head weights and heights.

Driving caps for percussion drivers A percussion driver is much more violent on concrete posts. Order a driving cap for your machine from manufacturer or have one custom made for your machine by a fabricator. Take the time to get the settings right before you bash the posts and you will save plenty of time in the long run. The percussion driver requires MORE rubber or plenty of high impact polyurethane in the post guide cap to minimise the impact on the post. Usually the rebound pressure should be turned right down on the driver as well. You will perhaps need a few trials to get the right balance and pressure.

This table shows the recommended height the driver hammer should be lifted to depending on the hammer head weight.	WEIGHT OF HAMMER HEAD	DROP HAMMER—HEIGHT HAMMER HEAD LIFTED TO			
		300mm or 1ft	600mm or 2ft	900mm or 3ft	1200mm or 4ft
	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					