

Easy Sign/Post Installation Guide

First and foremost, **call 811 before you dig.** Have the area you plan to dig surveyed for buried utilities. Destruction of underground cables can be dangerous and very expensive! YOU are responsible for repairs of all damages. Fiber optic cables can easily cost several thousand dollars to repair.

Here's what you'll need for an easy install with professional results:

Post hole digger/auger, either manual or gas powered.

Shovel, rake, gloves and a small tarp to put the dirt taken out of the holes on, makes clean up easier.

(1) 40LB bag of quick set concrete (per hole) and (1) gallon of water (per hole).

(2) 2x4's 4 foot long, both exactly same length (1) straight 2x4 long enough to span both post holes.

12" bubble level (longer is better).

Basic hand tools, tape measure, hammer, screwdriver, handsaw, hacksaw and pliers if any assembly of the sign to the posts is needed. Cordless drill/driver and other power tools are a plus. Can of spray paint to mark hole locations.

An assistant, small signs are usually a two-man project, larger, heavier or taller signs may require additional help or mechanical lift.

Start by gathering and organizing the tools and materials you'll need to complete the installation at the location the utility companies have approved for safe digging. Measure distance from center to center of sign posts, use spray paint to put two dots on the ground at this measurement. Spray a 10" diameter circle centered around each dot, dig straight down inside these two circles.

By eyesight you can determine if one post will be installed at a lower grade or if the area is fairly level, dig the hole on the low side first to the post depth recommended by the sign manufacturer, usually a minimum of 22" for small signs with 4x4 or 5x5 posts. Hole diameter should be 7 to 8 inches for 4x4 posts and 8 to 10 inches for 5x5 posts, this gives enough area around the post for concrete support. Dig holes straight down and same diameter at the bottom as the top for good center positioning of the posts, larger is always better and helps prevent crumbling dirt off the sides when installing the post.

Use one of the 4 foot 2x4's as a tamping block to pack any loose dirt in the bottom of the hole. Be sure to make the bottom of the hole as flat and firm as possible. Dig the next hole and check the rough depth by placing the other 2x4 in the hole and setting the long 2x4 across the tops of the upright 2x4's, use the level to see if you need to add or remove dirt from the second hole.

Once the hole depths are close to level, use the other 2x4 to pack the second hole and recheck the level again and adjust by adding or removing dirt until you achieve a perfect level reading. If the soil is soft or sandy add 2" of dry concrete mix in bottom of holes to prevent hollow PVC posts from settling. Recheck the level reading again, once the holes are perfectly level you are then ready to place the sign posts in

the holes and add about 6" of dry concrete mix around each post, use the level to check that the posts are plumb, add water into each hole and recheck plumb. Add dry mix and more water until you get the concrete to the top of the holes. Having the concrete to the top of the hole prevents grass and weeds from growing too close to the post.

Larger signs may need bracing on windy days while the concrete sets.

Finish by wiping any concrete or dirt from the sign or posts, dispose of dirt taken from the holes, clean your tools and give yourself a hand for a job well done.

