GateFrames

REV 08.2026



FIELD INSTALLATION MANUAL

SWING GATE INSTALLATION GUIDE

Clear dimensions. Solid footings. Smooth movement.

ORDERED WIDTH = INSIDE FACE OF POST TO INSIDE FACE OF POST

With two 4 in posts, outside-to-outside = ordered opening + 8 in.

01
VERIFY THE OPENING

02
BUILD THE FOOTINGS

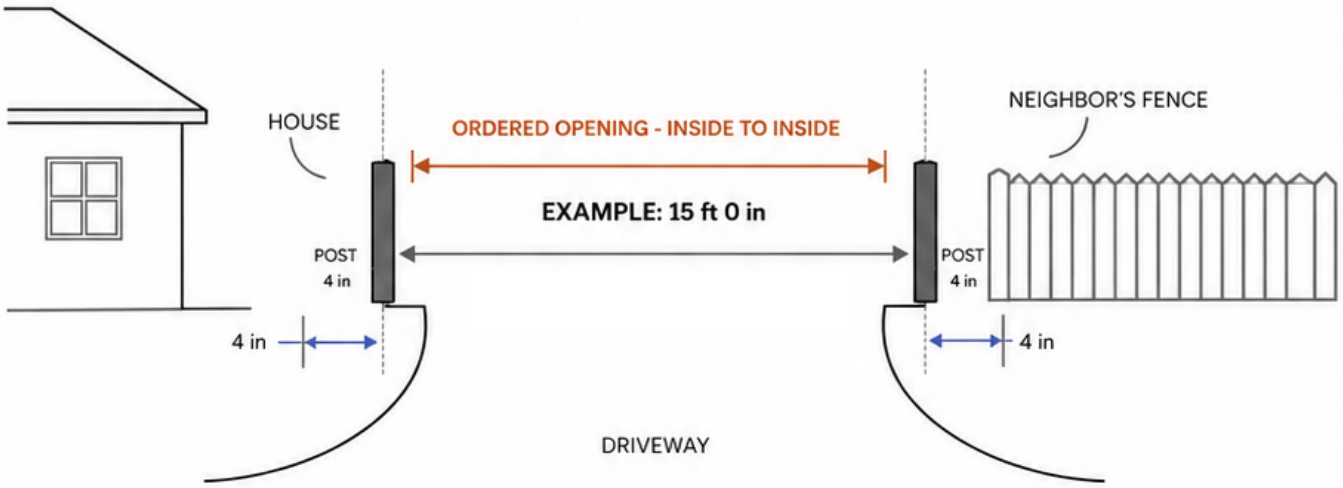
03
HANG + ADJUST

CRITICAL MEASUREMENT

Measure between the posts.

GateFrames orders use the clear opening between the inside faces of the two gate posts - never the outside faces.

FIELD LAYOUT EXAMPLE - TWO 4 in POSTS



ORDERED OPENING = CLEAR SPACE BETWEEN THE INSIDE FACES

WITH TWO 4 IN POSTS: OUTSIDE-TO-OUTSIDE = ORDERED OPENING + 8 in

DO NOT MEASURE THIS WAY

A 12 ft outside-to-outside layout with two 4 in posts leaves only 11 ft 4 in between the posts - exactly 8 in too narrow.

811 BEFORE ANY DIGGING

Call 811 and wait for underground utilities to be marked. Confirm the entire work area is clear before excavating.

BRING TO THE SITE

- [ ] Order confirmation showing the ordered opening width
- [ ] Tape measure, 4 ft level or laser, string line, stakes, and white marking paint
- [ ] Excavation tools, crushed base rock, and concrete selected for site conditions
- [ ] Wrenches or sockets, screwdriver, automotive grease, gloves, and a 2 in wedge
- [ ] At least two capable adults for lifting and hanging

CONFIRM BEFORE STARTING

- [ ] Permits, frost depth, soil, drainage, wind exposure, and local code requirements
- [ ] Buildings, fences, columns, landscaping, and slopes do not interfere with either leaf
- [ ] Gate operator, latch, stop, and conduit locations are planned before concrete is placed
- [ ] Custom order drawings take priority whenever dimensions differ from this general guide

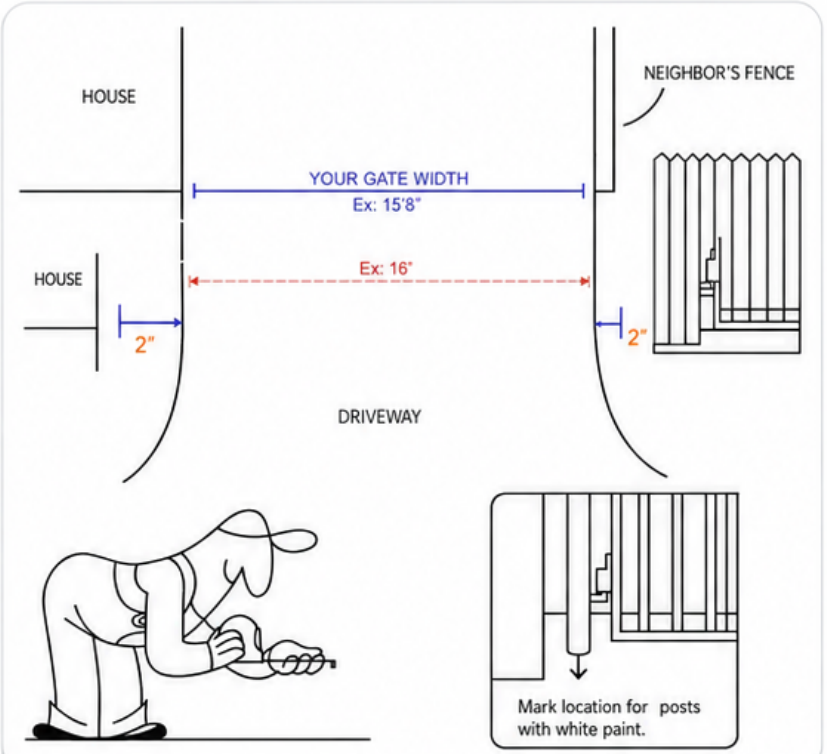
01

LAYOUT

Mark the opening and protect the swing path.

Build the post layout from the ordered opening width. Measure only between the inside faces of the post locations.

1. Find the ordered opening width on the GateFrames order confirmation.
2. Mark the inside face of the first post, then measure the exact ordered opening to the inside face of the second post.
3. Keep at least 2 in between each post and any wall, fence, column, house, or other adjacent object.
4. Trace the full movement of every leaf from fully closed to fully open. Check vehicles, grade changes, landscaping, roof overhangs, and other obstructions.
5. Mark the final post-hole outlines with white paint only after the complete layout has been verified.



Mark both inside faces, confirm the entire swing path, and preserve room outside the posts for concrete, latches, and operator hardware.

TWO 4 in POSTS

OUTSIDE-TO-OUTSIDE = ORDERED OPENING + 8 in

Example: a 12 ft order requires 12 ft between the inside faces and about 12 ft 8 in outside-to-outside.

LAYOUT CHECKPOINT

- [ ] Inside-to-inside marks exactly match the order.
- [ ] At least 2 in exists beside each post.
- [ ] Both leaves clear the ground and every obstacle through the full arc.
- [ ] Post centers, conduit, drains, latches, and operator equipment do not conflict.
- [ ] Utility markings are complete and still visible.
- [ ] The work area is ready for excavation.

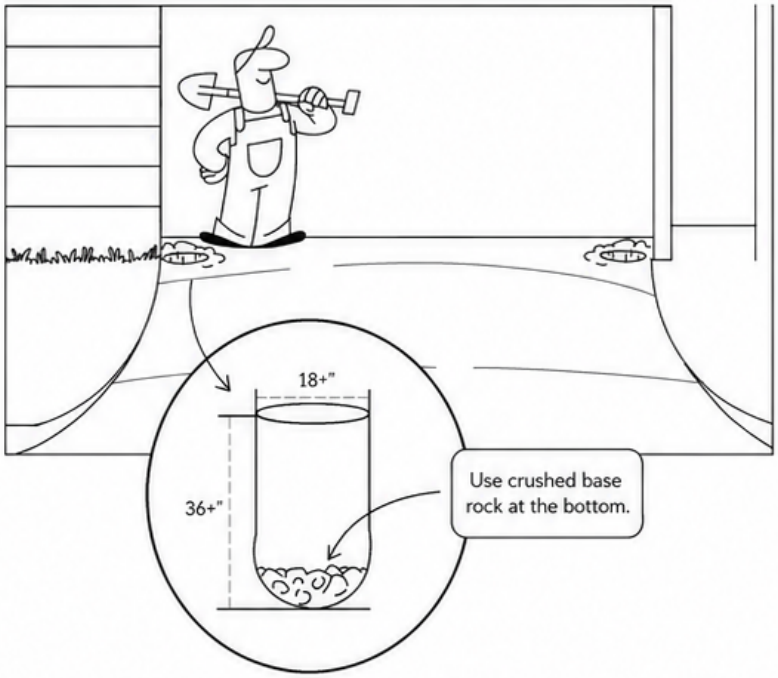
02

EXCAVATION

Dig solid footings and prepare drainage.

Use 24 x 24 x 36 in per post as the recommended minimum; enlarge for soil, load, wind, frost, drainage, and local code.

FIELD EXCAVATION VIEW - UPDATED TO 18 in+



Field illustration. 18 in+ diameter and 36 in+ depth. GateFrames recommends 24 x 24 x 36 in minimum unless an approved site design requires larger.

RECOMMENDED MINIMUM PER POST

24 x 24 x 36 in

WIDTH x LENGTH x DEPTH

- Excavate only after utilities are cleared and the layout is final.
- Increase hole size and concrete volume when soil is soft, wet, disturbed, expansive, or poorly compacted.
- Single-swing gates place the entire load on one hinge post and usually require larger footings.
- Place compacted crushed base rock in the bottom for drainage and a stable post seat.
- Keep the post centered, plumb, and protected during concrete placement.

INCREASE FOOTING SIZE WHEN ANY OF THESE APPLY

SOFT / FILL SOIL
Loose, disturbed, expansive, sandy, or saturated ground.

HEAVY LOAD
Single leaf, wood infill, wide span, gate operator, or wind forces.

WEATHER
High winds, frost depth, runoff, or freeze-thaw exposure.

DO NOT GUESS AT STRUCTURAL REQUIREMENTS.

When site conditions are uncertain, use a licensed contractor or engineer and follow all local requirements.

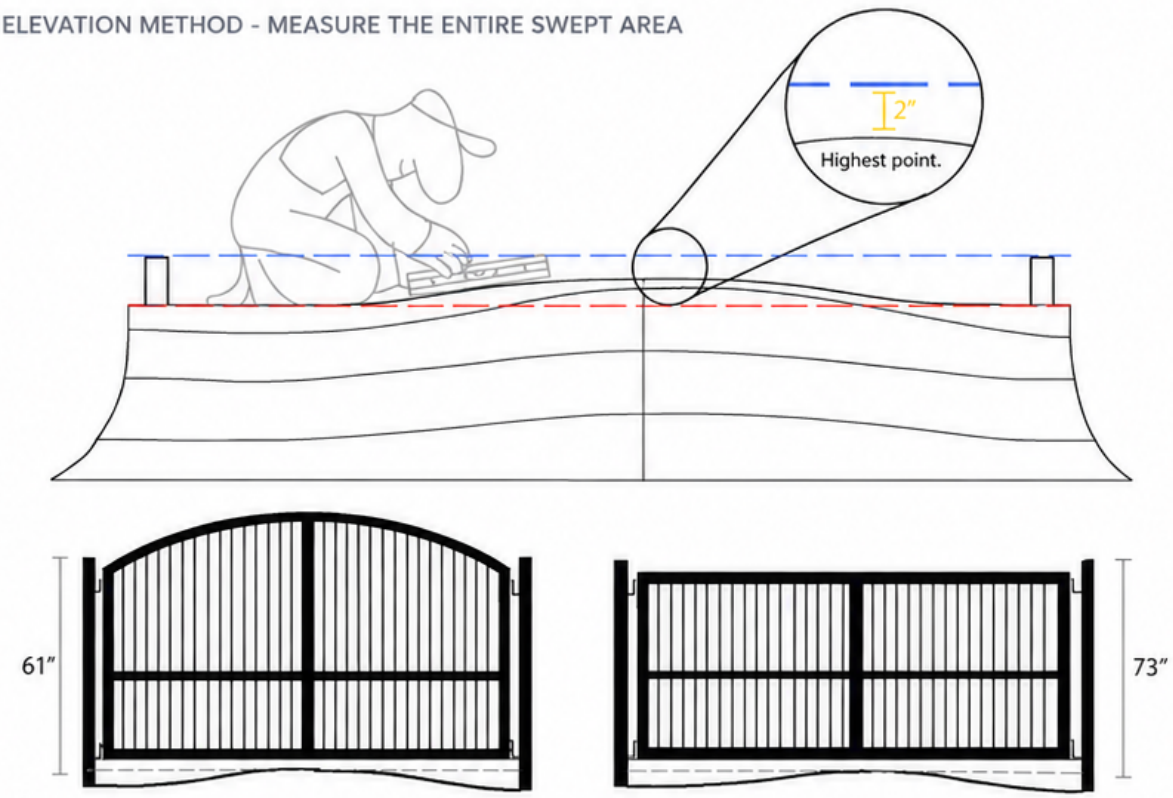
03

GRADE + POSTS

Find the highest point. Set both posts from it.

Find the absolute highest elevation in the full swing path - open, closed, and everywhere along the arc - then establish both post heights from that point.

FIELD ELEVATION METHOD - MEASURE THE ENTIRE SWEPT AREA



Preserve at least 2 in beneath the gate at the highest point, keep both post tops level to each other, and raise both posts equally when additional ground clearance is required.

ARCHED GATE

61 in

plus the highest-point elevation

FLAT-TOP GATE

73 in

plus the highest-point elevation

BEFORE CONCRETE SETS:

confirm the ordered opening, both posts plumb in both directions, and post tops level to each other.

Raise both posts equally when the terrain requires more than the minimum 2 in ground clearance.

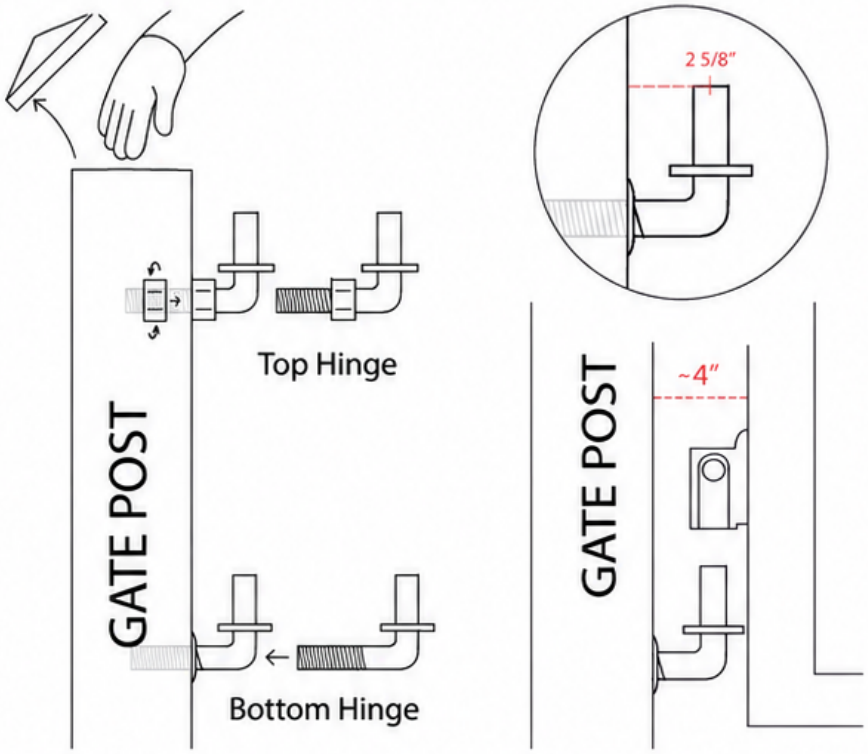
STEPS 4 + 5

Install and prep the hinge hardware.

TYPICAL MINIMUM WAIT BEFORE HANGING

FAST-SETTING: 2-4 HOURS | **STANDARD: 1-3 DAYS**

HINGE ORIENTATION AND SPACING



Use the supplied lower assembly with one nut. For the upper hinge, remove the second nut, pass the bolt through the post, reinstall the nut from inside, and tighten.

CRITICAL DIMENSIONS

2 5/8 in
post face to bolt center

~4 in
post-to-gate spacing

BOTTOM HINGE

Thread the supplied one-nut hinge into the lower post location, then set its projection.

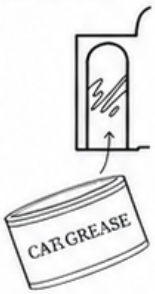
TOP HINGE

Remove the second nut, pass the bolt through the post, reinstall the nut from inside, and tighten.

GREASE THE BARRELS AND INSERT THE BALL BEARINGS



WEAR GLOVES



PACK WITH AUTOMOTIVE GREASE



PRESS IN THE BALL BEARING

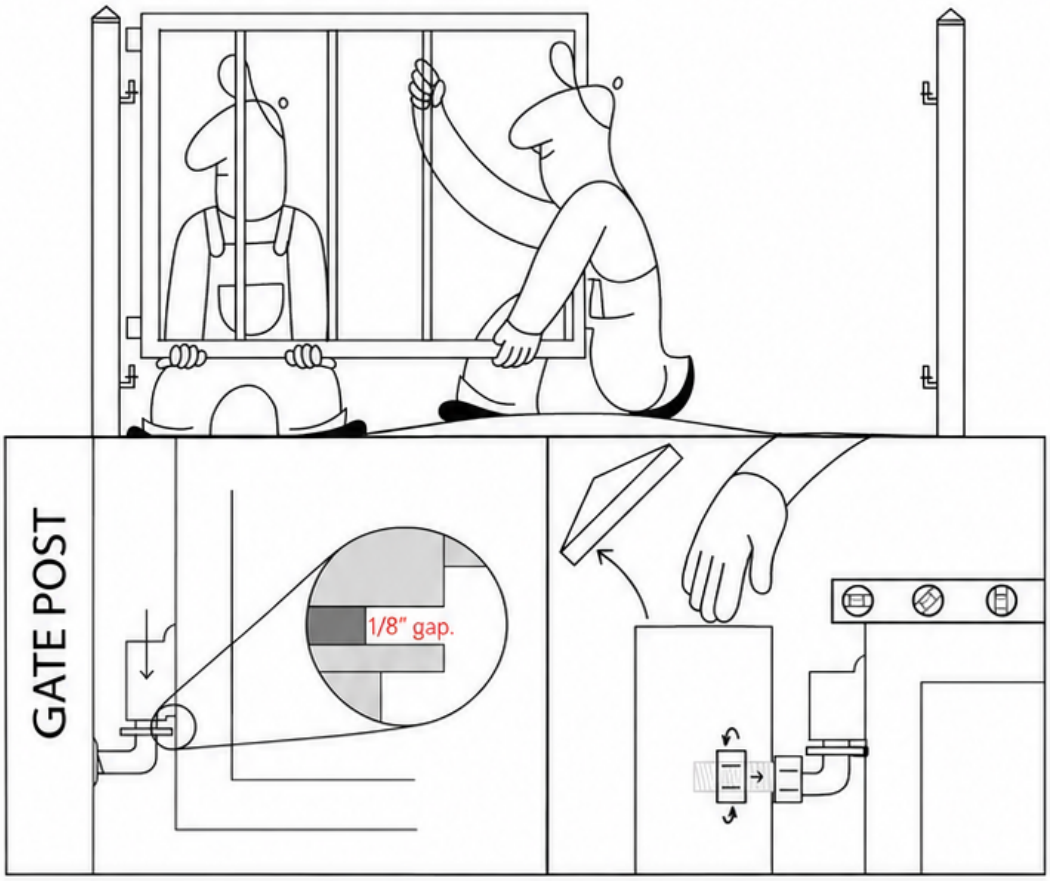
Use standard automotive grease – roughly two grease-gun pumps or a generous hand-applied coat.
With gloves on, press the ball bearing into the grease inside each downward-facing hinge barrel until it stays lodged at the top.

06 FINAL ASSEMBLY

Hang, seat, align, and test the gate.

TWO-PERSON MINIMUM LIFT
Support the gate continuously until both hinge barrels are seated and the hardware is secure.

FIELD HANGING, SEATING, AND LEVELING SEQUENCE



Center both gate barrels over the 3/4 in adjustable hinge bolts, lower evenly, and gently swing the supported gate until both hinges are fully seated.

SEAT + CHECK THE GAP
A gap of up to 1/8 in between the welded washer and the bottom of the barrel can be normal. Swing carefully until both hinges are seated.

ALIGN DUAL LEAVES
Support the center, loosen only the top hinge nuts, lift with a 2 in wedge until the leaves meet level, then tighten every nut.

MANUAL MOTION TEST
The gate should stay aligned and move smoothly before a latch or operator is commissioned.

CLOSEOUT

Final inspection and field quick reference.

Complete this check before regular use, latching, or gate-operator setup.

INSTALLATION CHECKLIST

- [ ] Actual clear opening matches the ordered opening inside-to-inside.
- [ ] Both posts are plumb in two directions and their tops are level.
- [ ] Concrete has cured per the manufacturer and site requirements.
- [ ] Hinge-bolt centerlines are set equally at 2 5/8 in from the post face.
- [ ] Grease and a ball bearing are installed in every hinge barrel.
- [ ] All nuts are tight after final alignment.
- [ ] At least 2 in ground clearance exists through the complete swing path.
- [ ] Dual leaves meet level and maintain a consistent center gap.
- [ ] Each leaf moves smoothly by hand with no binding or collision.
- [ ] Latch, stops, safety devices, and operators follow their own instructions.

KEY DIMENSIONS

ORDERED OPENING	inside-to-inside
ADJACENT CLEARANCE	2 in minimum
TYPICAL FOOTING	24 x 24 x 36 in min
GROUND CLEARANCE	2 in minimum
HINGE BOLT CENTER	2 5/8 in from post
HINGE SPACING	about 4 in
HINGE BOLT	3/4 in
SEATING GAP	up to 1/8 in
POST TOP - ARCH	61 in above high point
POST TOP - FLAT	73 in above high point
LIFT CREW	2+ capable adults

INSTALLATION RECORD

ORDER / PROJECT

ORDERED OPENING

ACTUAL INSIDE-TO-INSIDE

GATE STYLE

DATE

INSTALLER

NEED HELP ON SITE?



GATEFRAMES.COM

(408) 260-5145

Free technical support

SCAN TO VISIT