

HOW-TO-BUILD GUIDE

DOUBLE DRIVEWAY GATES

WHAT YOU CAN BUILD USING THIS GUIDE

These instructions are for a pair of standard 1.5 m wide x 1.5 m high vertically clad timber gates, hung on timber posts, across a level driveway.

BEFORE YOU BEGIN BUILDING

Contact your local territorial authority and confirm that the height, type and location of the driveway gates you intend to build comply with all local planning and building rules and whether a building or resource consent is required before construction. Provided the gates described here are built within the section boundary, consent is not normally required.

The materials will need to be calculated based on the actual size and type of gates you intend to install.

MATERIALS

Gates

Frame	75 x 50 mm H3.2 treated radiata pine timber
Cladding	100 x 25 H3.2 mm treated radiata pine timber
Nails	75 mm hot-dip galvanised jolt-head
	50 mm hot-dip galvanised jolt-head
Hinges	hot-dip galvanised steel gate hinges
Latch	hot-dip galvanised steel latch mechanism
Bolts	hot-dip galvanised steel bolt mechanism
Nail plates	stainless steel nail plates

Posts

Post	150 x 150 mm H5 treated radiata pine timber
Stop	50 x 25 mm H3.2 treated radiata pine timber
Concrete	pre-mixed aggregate and cement in bags
Braces/pegs	scrap timber

WORK SEQUENCE

Deciding location

1. Determine the exact location where the gates are to be installed. Check that you accurately locate your property boundary and any adjoining property boundaries and that you position the gates and posts within your own property.

Posts

2. The posts are to be set into foundation holes in the ground. Clearly mark the location of the posts on either side of the driveway and dig a 1 m deep 300 mm diameter or 300 mm square foundation hole to suit (see Figure 1).
3. Place 100 mm of concrete in the base of the hole and place the 150 x 150 mm timber posts, cut to a 2.7 m length, into the holes. Drive pegs into the ground and brace the posts in a square and plumb position. Fill the remainder of each hole with concrete and tamp it down with a length of timber until it is well compacted to just below ground level. Wet the mix following the instructions on the bag and allow 7 days for the concrete to cure before erecting the gates (see Figure 1).

Gate construction

4. On a flat solid area build two rectangular frames 1.48 x 1.2 m in size out of 75 x 50 mm timber. Use 75 mm hot-dip galvanised jolt-head nails to nail the timber together at each corner. These are the frames for the two gates. Adjust the shape of the frames until the diagonal dimensions are equal, which will mean that they are now square. Mark a length of 75 x 50 mm timber to run diagonally across the frame from corner to corner and cut and nail in place on the flat. Make sure it is securely nailed as this is the diagonal brace which will maintain the gate's rigidity (see Figure 2).
5. Cut enough 100 x 25 mm timber cladding to a length of 1.5 m to cover the 1.48 m width of each gate. Nail it vertically in a closed butted fashion to the 75 x 50 mm frame (including the diagonal brace) with 50 mm hot-dip galvanised jolt-head nails. Align the first plank with the edge of the frame and allow each plank to overhang the 1.2 m dimension of the frame by 150 mm top and bottom. You may need to trim the last plank on each gate to ensure that it aligns with the frame. You will now have two 1.48 m wide by 1.5 m high vertically clad gates (see Figures 2 and 3).

You can form a curve to the top of each gate if you wish. To do this, mark the shape of an even shallow curve, starting one plank in from each end of the gate. Check that it does not go below the level of the top frame of the gate. Use a saw to cut the planks along the line.

Gate installation

6. Securely screw suitable hot-dip galvanised steel gate hinges to the back of each gate, one hinge at the top and bottom horizontal frames and one midway up the gate. Fix the components of the galvanised steel internal latch system to each gate and cut a hole that is suitable to allow the latch to be undone from the gate exterior. Fix the components of the hot-dip galvanised steel drop bolt system to the bottom at the centre of each gate (see Figure 2).
7. Remove the temporary braces from the gate posts after 7 days and check that the posts are firm. Lift the first gate into position against the post in a closed position. Place temporary packers beneath the gate to hold it at the required height off the ground. Place a 10 mm thick piece of timber between the post and the side of the gate to create a 10 mm clearance gap up the entire side, and securely screw the three gate hinges to the post (see Figure 2).
8. Follow the same procedure with the second gate, making sure the two gates meet cleanly at the centre junction and that they are packed and fixed to the same height. If the gates stick at the centre, plane enough timber off the side of one gate to ensure the gates meet cleanly.

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9. Mark the engaged position of each drop-down bolt from the bottom of the gates on the driveway and drill a suitable diameter hole in the drive to allow the bolt pins to engage and hold the gates in place (see Figure 2). You may also want to drill similar bolt holes in the drive to secure the gates in an open position.
10. Remove the packers from beneath the gates and ensure the gate hinges hold the gates firm and level in both the closed and open position. Adjust the centre latch mechanism to ensure the gates latch together.
11. An option at this stage is to add two lengths of timber to form a gate stop and cover up the 10 mm clearance gap between the gate and the post.

Cut two 1.5 m lengths of 50 x 25 mm timber and nail them to the face of each gate post hard to the face of the gate cladding on the exterior of each gate.

12. Decide the height you would like the posts finished to (they will currently be approximately 200 mm above the top of the gates) and cut them to the required height. You can also install a turned timber decorative top to each of the posts, or simply rout a line around the post 25 mm down from the top to finish it off cleanly.

Figure 1

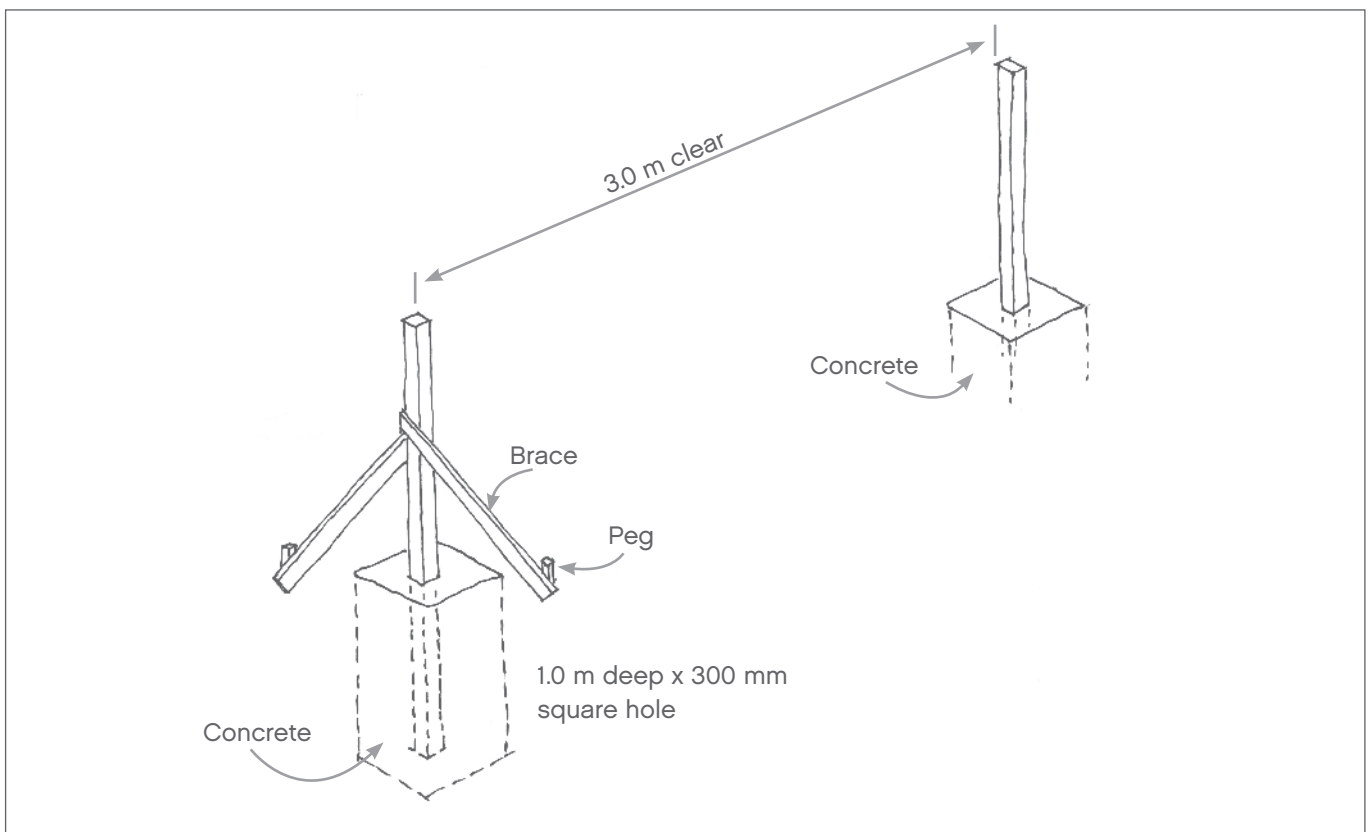


Figure 2

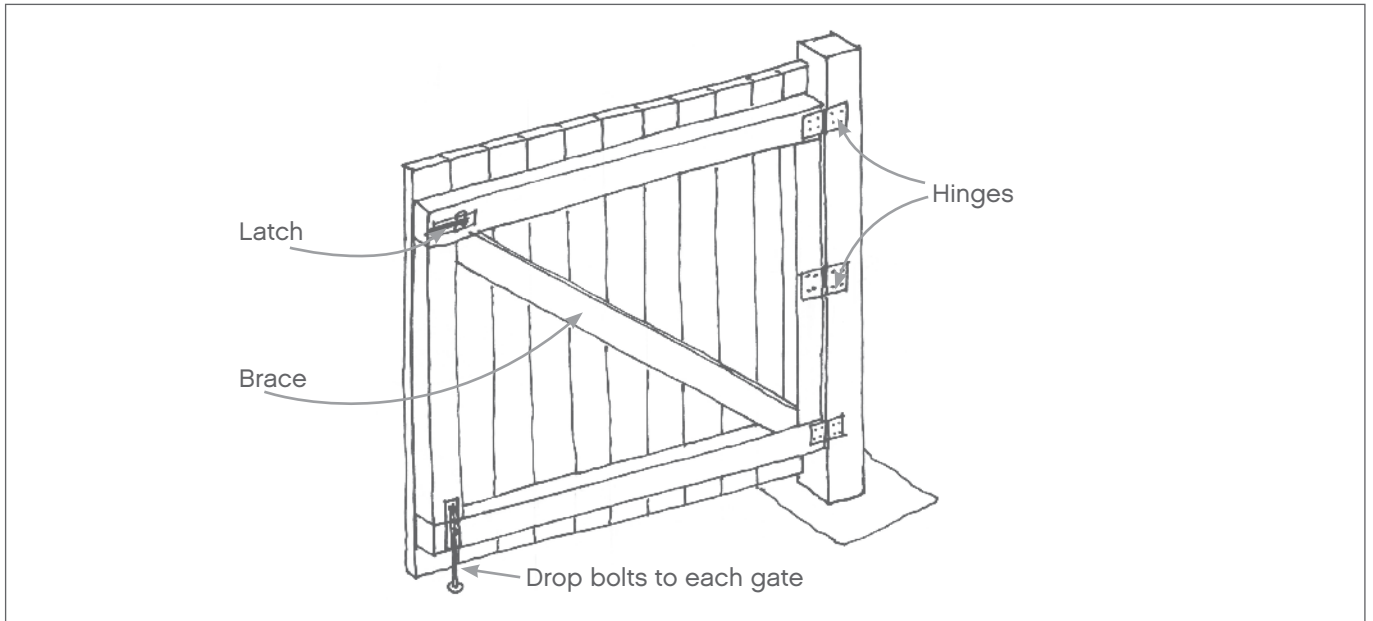
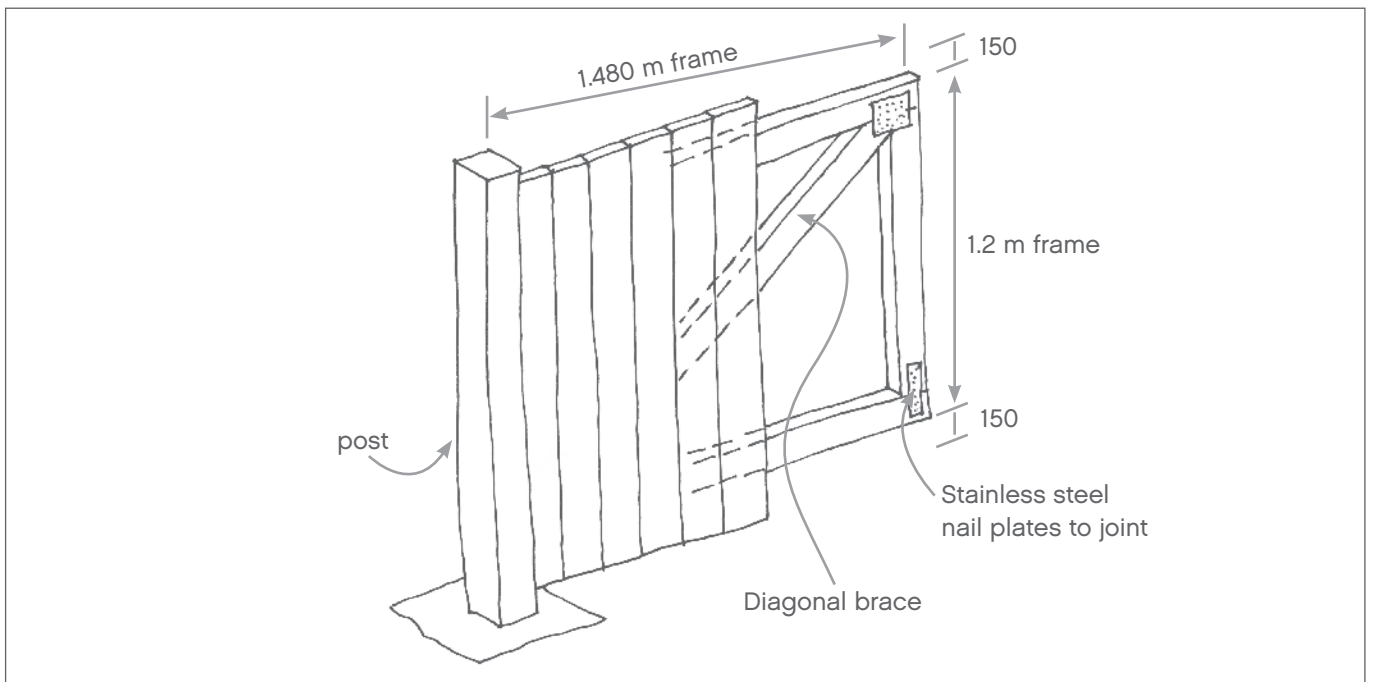


Figure 3



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