

Frequently Asked Questions

StandardGates :: Driveway Gates + Security Fence + Automation Kits



1. What do I need to measure to be able to order the correct size gate?

For Swinging Gates, you need to first pick a location that you would like the gate to be installed. You need to then measure your maximum opening (ex: From the edge of your house to the edge of the fence). Take the maximum opening distance, subtract 4" from that distance which will give yourself approximately 2" on either side for clearance. Once you have that dimension, you can build and order your gate using that dimension.

For Sliding Gates, you need to also pick a location that you would like the gate to be installed. Measure the opening clearance you would like to have and then add 8" for the 2 support posts (ex: you would like a 14' clearance between the posts, you need to add 8" for the 2 4" support posts, making the gate you order a 14'8" gate). Please note that once you determine the gate size to be ordered, you will need to make sure you have double that distance so that the gate will be able to open fully. If you are automating the gate, you will need an additional 2.5' of clearance when the gate is in its fully opened position.

2. How deep do I need to set my posts?

We recommend digging a 18" Diameter by 36" deep hole, however how deep you set the posts depends on the type of gate you order. If you purchase an arched top gate, you will need to set the posts a maximum of 35" into the ground. If you purchase a flat top gate, you will need to set the posts a maximum of 23" into the ground.

3. How do I make the posts level, and/or know which to set first?

There are a number of different ways to ensure your posts are level to each other. The first thing you need to do is find out if there is any slope in the ground between the 2 posts, and if you are installing a swinging gate, you will need to determine if there is any slope when the gate/s will be in the open position. You can do this either by using a laser level (found at many hardware stores), or you can use a 4' level and string line. Once you determine if there is any slope in both directions, you then set your post allowing for 2" of clearance underneath the gate at the highest elevation. This means if you're installing a double swing gate and there is 1" of slope from post to post and no slope in the open position, you set the post with the highest elevation at 35" for arched top and 23" for flat top. The opposite post will be set 1" higher out of the ground or 34" for arched top and 22" for flat top.

4. What is the tallest gate that you manufacture?

Our Flat top gates are 6' and our arched gates are 5' sides with a 6' center. However if you add finials to the gate, the height increases by 8".

5. What type of power is needed to power the gates?

A designated 110v outlet is required for the gate operator's transformer to be plugged into. Other option is a 10w-30w solar panel directly wired to the operator.

6. What type of maintenance is needed for the gates?

Our Standard Iron gates require you to grease the hinges every 6months-1year. You might need to touch up/wipe down the gate every couple months to restore its shine. For Redwood gates, we recommend restaining the gates once every year for the first 3 years. We use Behr Premium Semi-Transparent Fence board Stain. Once a heavy coat is established you can restain the wood every 3-4 years. For the Ironwood gates, we recommend you re-oil the gates every year for the first 3 years. Once a heavy coat is established you can re-oil every 2-3 years.

7. If the ground moves and the gate posts sag a little is there any way to adjust the gate to accommodate for the sagging?

Yes, we use heavy duty adjustable hinges that allow you to make minor adjustments to replumb the gates if there is any movement in the posts or ground.

8. How are the gates shipped and how should they be received once the gates are delivered?

The gates are packaged in a large wooden box. They are then loaded onto a truck and shipped to your provided address. When receiving the gate, you can either have the truck driver use their hydraulic lift to lower the gate off the truck and then have them put it where you would like to unpackage the gate. (Please note that using the hydraulic truck lift gate will cost you \$65). The other option if you do not want to forgo the cost of the liftgate, you can use a power drill with a #2 Phillips head screw driver head and unpackage the gate on the tuck. Please, before signing for or accepting the gate, make any note of damage done to both the gate box and or the gate and hardware itself.

9. If I do not want to install the gate myself, how do I chose the correct contractor for the job?

You can simply ask your neighbors who installed their gates and if they did a good job. You can use Yelp or Handy or another site that gives you reviews on contractors. Most fencing contractors should be able to install the gate, and follow our how to install guide on our website: StandardGates.com

This FAQ is still early in development. If you have questions that aren't answered here, please call us at (650) 614-5008 or email us as at help@standardgates.com. Thank you