

# HOW TO CARE FOR YOUR PRODUCT INFORMATION

## Table of Contents

Introduction	1
<b>Cleaning Your Product</b>	1
Vinyl Fencing, Decking and Railing	1
Simulated Rock Fence	1
Aluminum Fencing	2
Composite Decking and Railing	2-4
<b>Gate Adjustments</b>	4
Vinyl Fencing and Railing	4
36", 42", and 48" High Vinyl Fence and Railing Gates	4-5
60" and 72" High Vinyl Fence Gates	5
84" and 96" High Vinyl Fence Gates	5-6
Post and Rail Gates	6
Simulated Rock Fence	6-7
Aluminum Fencing	7
<b>Removable Sections and Posts</b>	7
Removable Section for Vinyl Fences and Railings with Wide Picket Spacing	8
Removable Section for Vinyl Fences with Narrow or No Picket Spacing	8-9
Two Removable Sections and One Removable Post for Vinyl Fences	9
Removable Section for Simulated Rock Fence	9
Two Removable Sections and One Removable Post for Simulated Rock Fence	10
Removable Section for Aluminum Fences	10-11
Two Removable Sections and One Removable Post For Aluminum Fences	11-12

## INTRODUCTION

Maintenance-Free Outdoor Solutions, Inc. (MFOS) offers several different types of fencing, decking, and railing. The type, style, color, and height of the product you've chosen will determine how to maintain it. They will also determine which type of gate hardware (if applicable) you will receive. The following information is broken into three separate categories. These are: 1) Cleaning Your Product, 2) Gate Adjustments, and 3) Removable Sections and Posts. Although our products are virtually maintenance-free, they still require a small amount of maintenance in order for you to keep them looking and operating at their best. Feel free to give us a call if you experience a situation that isn't discussed in the following information. We'll be happy to assist you!

## CLEANING YOUR PRODUCT

### **Vinyl Fencing, Decking & Railing, and Simulated Rock Fencing**

While vinyl fencing, decking, & railing, and simulated rock fencing resist most common household stains like oil and grease, it will become dirty like any other product that is exposed to atmospheric conditions. Chalk may also accumulate on vinyl surfaces. This is a normal condition for all pigmented vinyl materials which are constantly exposed to sunlight and the elements. Soil, grime and chalk can be simply removed with the help of your garden hose and a bucket of soapy water.

If especially stubborn stains cannot be removed with soapy water, try any all-purpose cleaner such as "Fantastic" or "409", and a "Scotch-Brite" brand heavy duty scouring pad. Spray the all-purpose cleaner onto the stain and rub out the stain with the scouring pad. Once this has been performed, simply take a clean rag or towel and wipe off the grime. (The two surfaces where you should NOT use the scouring pad are Clay colored fences and railings, and the Prestige composite ornamental products. These special surfaces will be scratched and get dulled if you use the scouring pad on them. For these surfaces use a soft cloth along with the all purpose cleaner.)

If your vinyl product gets scratched, first try the all-purpose cleaner and scouring pad method mentioned directly above. If that doesn't remove the scratch you will need to perform the following procedure. Take fine (400grit) wet/dry sandpaper and sand out the scratch. Be sure to keep the sanding area as small as possible. Next, take the all-purpose cleaner, spray the area, and wipe the product off with a rag or towel. Then take "Armor All" brand cleaner (you can find in the automotive department of most discount stores such as Target, Wal-Mart, or K-Mart) and rub it onto the sanded area. The final step is to take a clean soft cloth and buff out the area. This will bring back the glossy look of the vinyl.

Your vinyl product or simulated rock fence may develop mildew on it. This is more likely to occur if you live in a high humidity area, or in areas where the fence, deck, or railing receives very little sunlight to evaporate the rainwater or early morning dew. The mildew may be able to be removed with warm soapy water and a rag. If this doesn't completely remove the mildew, then try spraying the area with a power washer. (Consult your power washer operating manual for which size tip to spray your product with.) Usually, the power washer alone will remove the mildew. In some instances, though, the mildew may still appear. If this occurs, you can use a pre-mixed product called "Zep brand Mildew Stain Remover". You can find this product at any Home Depot in the cleaning supplies aisle. Follow the instructions on the label, and then power wash the fence to remove the chemicals and remaining mildew from the vinyl product. **(Note: The chemical agents referenced herein may be hazardous to the user or to the environment. Be sure to follow all precautions and warnings on the product label, and particularly those which may be necessary to prevent personal injury. Please dispose of these chemical agents in a manner prescribed by the manufacturer. If you are unsure how to use or how to dispose of these chemical agents, contact the manufacturer of these products for instructions.)**

## **Aluminum Fencing**

Since aluminum fencing is a painted product, you need to make sure you clean the product in a manner that won't remove or dull the paint. If the aluminum fence gets dirty, simply use warm soapy water and a sponge to remove the dirt or grime.

If the product gets scratched, the severity of the scratch will determine which course of action you need to take. If the painted surface of the aluminum fence has light surface scratches, it's best to do absolutely nothing. These light scratches can only be seen if you're very close to the product and looking at a specific area of the fence. Virtually all aluminum fences are going to have some light surface scratches on them regardless of who fabricates or installs the fence. If you try to "touch up" these areas with paint, the new paint will draw more attention than simply leaving the scratches alone.

If you have a significant scratch on your aluminum fence where you can see the shiny silver aluminum (because the entire painted surface has been removed,) you will need to "touch up" this area with paint. If spray paint is used, it's best to use spray paint that comes directly from our supplier. This allows for the color of the spray paint to match the color of the existing fence. Be sure to confine the spray in as small of an area as possible. Also, apply the spray paint in small, light amounts. If you apply the spray paint too heavy and the paint begins to run, simply wipe it off with a rag and start over. It's important to use spray paint as little as possible. The more spray paint you use, the more likely you're going to notice it.

If you call into our company to order spray paint, ask if a "paint pen" is available. As of this print, paint pens are only available in the color of black. However, it's possible that these pens may become available in other colors in the future. The advantage of the paint pen is that you can touch up only the area that needs touching up, not the surrounding areas that don't need touching up.

## **Composite Decking and Railing**

### **Basic Cleaning Recommendations**

TimberTech highly recommends periodic cleaning of your TimberTech deck to help maintain the beauty of the product. Most deck-cleaning products will work on TimberTech. For best results use a cleaner that contains any of the following as an active ingredient for general cleaning and follow the manufacturer's instruction for use:

- Phosphoric Acid
- Oxalic Acid
- Hydrochloric Acid
- Sodium Hypochlorite

Power washing will enhance results when cleaning your TimberTech deck. 1500psi is the recommended maximum for TimberTech products. A fan tip nozzle should be used along with the proper cleaning product. Spray in the direction of the brush/grain pattern to avoid damaging your decking. Use caution not to damage the material and always take the proper safety precautions when operating a power washer.

### **Spot Stains**

Oil Eater Cleaner and Degreaser are very effective against oil, grease and other stains. For extra heavy oil and grease stains or other specific stain types, check with your local lumberyard, hardware stores or home centers for cleaners applicable to a specific stain type. If stains have set, you may want to use fine sandpaper and sand lightly, following the wood grain finish of the plank. The sanded area will weather back in approximately 8-10 weeks.

## **Tannin Stains**

Like any wood based product, TimberTech may experience a naturally occurring process called Extractive Bleeding. This process may cause a temporary discoloration that will weather away. In most cases this process takes 8-10 weeks but could vary depending on location and specific application such as a covered porch. To clean these areas on your TimberTech deck, it is recommended that you use a product such as Dekswood, manufactured by Flood [www.floodco.com](http://www.floodco.com) (800) 321-3444 (available at most home centers and hardware stores), or Composite Deck Restorer from PSC Solutions [www.psc-solutions.com](http://www.psc-solutions.com) (800) 354-2926.

## **Ice and Snow**

If you reside in a cold weather climate where ice and snow periodically come in contact with your deck, use calcium chloride or rock salt to melt the ice and snow.

## **Rust, Ground-in Dirt and Grime**

Use a cleaner that contains Phosphoric Acid or Oxalic Acid. Follow manufacturer's application instructions. If the stains have set, you may use fine sandpaper and sand lightly followed by a wire brush to re-grain the decking. Always follow the wood grain finish of the plank. The sanded area will weather back in approximately 8-10 weeks but can vary depending on location and specific application.

## **Painting/Staining/Sealing**

Stains and sealers that are recommended for use with TimberTech are:

Weatherall UV Guard Deck and Fence Coating ([www.weatherall.com](http://www.weatherall.com))

Weatherall UV Guard Exterior Wood Finish ([www.weatherall.com](http://www.weatherall.com))

Wait approximately 8-10 weeks or until TimberTech has completed its weathering process before painting or staining. Clean your TimberTech decking surface prior to applying paint or stain. Never paint or stain over surfaces that may contain dirt, or mildew.

Best results will be obtained when using a high-quality paint or solid color stain. Be sure paint or stain does not clog drain holes in the TimberTech Floorizon Planks. Once TimberTech is painted, stained or sealed, subsequent applications will be necessary to maintain appearance. TimberTech cannot be responsible for the performance of stains or paints applied to any TimberTech Engineered Decking Systems product. Always apply paints and sealers in accordance with the manufacturer's application instructions.

## **Mildew**

Wash your deck periodically with a cleaner like Zinsser's JOMAX ([www.zinsser.com](http://www.zinsser.com)) that contains or is mixed with Sodium Hypochlorite. Follow the manufacturer's application instructions. Use a stiff brush to scrub heavily stained surfaces following the grain.

Rinse off your TimberTech deck periodically with a hose. Even if your deck appears clean, it is important to prevent build-up of pollen/debris. Mildew stains may occur where moisture, pollens, and/or dirt are present. Mildew needs a food source to grow, which can be grass, pollens, dirt, debris, wood and wood resins.

Maintaining a clean, dry deck surface is the best method for combating mildew. Ensure that water drains effectively from your deck. Keeping weep holes clear and unclogged on TimberTech Floorizon Planks. For TimberTech TwinFinish 5/4 and 2x6 planks, be sure that gaps exist between planks to allow for drainage.

## **Scratches, Nicks, Cuts and Grooves**

For all products except TimberTech Railing, scratches, nicks, cuts and grooves can be eliminated by using a

wire brush. Brushing will need to be consistent with the grain of the product and the brushed area will weather back in approximately 8-10 weeks.

## **GATE ADJUSTMENTS**

Since gates are the moving part of the fence they are more susceptible to getting out of alignment, and therefore, may require adjusting from time to time. There are a few common sense preventative measures you need to take to keep these adjustments to a minimum. First, if your gate is self-closing, don't allow it to slam back into the latch post. After you open the gate, simply let the gate swing back toward the latch post. Then, catch the gate with your hand and set the striker bar into the catch of the latch assembly. Instruct the rest of your family members to do the same. Instruct your children to NOT hang on the gate. Especially on windy days, make sure the gate is latched properly so it doesn't swing freely in the wind. These preventative measures will go a long way to minimize the need for a gate adjustment or repair.

### **Vinyl Fencing and Railing**

MFOS uses exclusively D & D Technologies brand gate hardware for all of our vinyl gates except for post and rail gates. (Post and rail gate hardware adjustments are discussed below under the heading "Post & Rail Gates".) The type of D & D Technologies hinges and latch you receive will depend on the specific gate you choose and on any requirements you need to meet such as your local swimming pool code.

The following information lists the most common hinges and latches MFOS sells to accommodate specific gate heights, but it's possible that you may have a different hinge or latch depending on your specific situation. If you're unsure of which type of hinge or latch you purchased, you may either refer to your contract or invoice, or call us to find out.

#### **36", 42", and 48" High Vinyl Gates**

Most of our 36" and 48" high vinyl fencing gates, and 36" and 42" high vinyl railing gates come standard with mini-multi adjust hinges. You can adjust the gate itself horizontally and vertically by loosening the appropriate acorn nuts on the hinges, moving the gate to the desired location, and then re-tightening the acorn nuts. Be sure to NOT over tighten the acorn nuts. A 6" long wrench is recommended for tightening. This simple procedure normally needs to be performed when the striker bar is unable to insert into the catch.

The mini-multi adjust hinges have internal springs which allow the gate to self-close, barring any other obstacles such as uneven or sloping terrain, or debris. The speed of how fast or slow the gate returns to the closed position can be adjusted by performing the following procedure. Remove the cap on the hinge with a Phillips screwdriver. Next, take a flat blade screwdriver and insert it into the slot. Then depress and turn the screwdriver toward the (+) symbol to add tension or toward the (-) symbol to reduce tension to the internal spring. If you don't want your gate to self-close at all, simply turn the screwdriver toward the (-) symbol until all tension to the internal spring' released.

Most 36" and 48" high vinyl fencing and railing gates come equipped standard with a Lokk Latch. This latch is adjustable. On the striker bar side of the latch, there is a vertical slot that you can adjust up or down. This will allow you to raise or lower the striker bar in alignment with the catch portion of the latch.

All of MFOS 48" high swimming pool vinyl gates come standard with the Magna Latch. The key lock mechanism (where you insert the key) can be found toward the top of the latch body near the underneath side of the latch release knob. The magna latch can be adjusted vertically by first taking out the counter sink screw at

the bottom of the latch body, and then adjusting the latch body up or down as required. Once the latch body has been adjusted to the desired height, insert the counter sink screw back into a different hole at the bottom of the latch body and tighten. The magna latch can also be adjusted horizontally by adjusting a set screw at the striker body (which is located on the gate itself.) Using a Phillips screwdriver, if you turn the screw counter-clockwise, this will extend the striker bar toward the latch post. If you turn the screw clockwise, then the striker bar will retract away from the latch post.

### **60" and 72" High Vinyl Gates**

Most 60" and 72" high vinyl gates come with heavy duty multi-adjust hinges. You can adjust the gate itself horizontally and vertically by loosening the appropriate acorn nuts on the hinges, moving the gate to the desired location, and then re-tightening the acorn nuts. Be sure to NOT over tighten the acorn nuts. A 6" long wrench is recommended for tightening. This simple procedure normally needs to be performed if the striker bar is unable to enter the catch portion of the latch assembly.

The multi-adjust hinges have internal springs which allow the gate to self-close, barring any other obstacles such as uneven or sloping terrain, or debris. The speed of how fast or slow the gate returns to the closed position can be adjusted by performing the following procedure. Remove the cap on the hinge with a Phillips screwdriver. Next, take a flat blade screwdriver and insert it into the slot. Then depress and turn the screwdriver toward the (+) symbol to add tension or toward the (-) symbol to reduce tension to the hinge. If you don't want your gate to self-close at all, simply turn the screwdriver toward the (-) symbol until all tension to the internal spring has been released.

Most 60" and 72" high vinyl gates come with a high quality Lokk Latch. This excellently designed latch provides vertical adjustment on the striker bar part of the latch assembly. To perform this adjustment, first loosen all of the screws securing the striker body to the gate upright. Next, adjust the striker bar by sliding the striker body up or down the gate upright. Once the striker bar aligns to the center of the catch, re-tighten the screws. All Lokk Latches come from the manufacturer keyed alike. Therefore, one key will fit all of the locks in your gates even if you have multiple gates in your fence.

### **84" and 96" High Vinyl Gates**

Most 84" and 96" vinyl gates come standard with heavy duty Multi-Adjust hinges. You can adjust the gate itself horizontally and vertically by loosening the appropriate acorn nuts on the hinges, moving the gate to the desired location, and then re-tightening the acorn nuts. Be sure to NOT over tighten the acorn nuts. A 6" long wrench is recommended for tightening. This simple procedure normally needs to be performed if the striker bar is unable to enter the catch portion of the latch assembly.

The Multi-Adjust hinges have internal springs which allow the gate to self-close, barring any other obstacles such as uneven or sloping terrain, or debris. The speed of how fast or slow the gate returns to the closed position can be adjusted by performing the following procedure. Remove the cap on the hinge with a Phillips screwdriver. Next, take a flat blade screwdriver and insert it into the slot. Then depress and turn the screwdriver toward the (+) symbol to add tension or toward the (-) symbol to reduce tension to the hinge. If you don't want your gate to self-close at all, simply turn the screwdriver toward the (-) symbol until all tension to the internal spring has been released.

Most 84" and 96" high vinyl gates come with a high quality Lokk Latch. This excellently designed latch provides slight vertical adjustment on the striker bar part of the latch assembly. To perform this adjustment, first loosen all of the screws securing the striker body to the gate upright. Next, adjust the striker bar by sliding the striker body up or down the gate upright. Once the striker bar aligns to the center of the catch, re-tighten the

screws. All Lokk Latches come from the manufacturer keyed alike. Therefore, one key will fit all of the locks in your gates even if you have multiple gates in your fence.

## **Maintenance of D & D Technologies Gate Hardware**

Maintenance of D & D Technologies gate hardware is simple, and is to be performed by MFOS customers. Regarding their latches, REMOVE THE KEY FROM LOCK AFTER USE. Do not lubricate any part of the latch. Ensure all screws or bolts are tightened firmly and that the release knob and striker bar are kept free of sand, debris or ice which could impair latch performance. If your gate freezes in the winter, use a de-icer that is NOT oil or petroleum based. Your hardware and auto parts stores will typically sell this type of product.

Maintenance requirements for the hinges are minimal. Make sure each hinge has equal tension at all times. Do not lubricate, paint or disassemble these hinges at any time. If you do, it will void your warranty. Do NOT allow the gate to swing beyond 180 degrees. Never remove MULTI-ADJUST hinges from the gate until spring tension is released.

## **Post and Rail Gates**

Post and rail gates come with powder coated stainless steel gate hardware. The latch is not designed to be adjusted, however, it is pad lockable.

The hinges have considerable adjustability. These hinges are designed with a horizontal threaded bolt that attaches one side of the hinge to the other side. There are two adjusting nuts that can allow the gate to move either closer to or further away from the latch post. To move the gate closer to the latch post, first loosen the adjusting nut closest to the latch post to the desired location. Next, move the hinge on the gate next to this nut. The last step is to tighten the second adjusting nut all the way to sandwich this side of the hinge between the two adjusting nuts. This will keep the gate in its new location.

In order to move the gate further away from the latch post, first loosen the adjusting nut closest to the hinge post to the desired location. Next, move the hinge on the gate next to this nut. Finally, tighten the second adjusting nut all the way to sandwich this side of the hinge between the two adjusting nuts. Again, this will keep the gate in its new location.

If the striker bar is hitting the catch under the mid point of the catch, adjust the top hinge and move the gate further away from the latch post. This will allow the striker bar to raise and line up to the middle of the catch. Conversely, if the striker bar is hitting the catch over the mid point of the catch, adjust the top hinge and move the gate closer to the latch post. This will allow the striker bar to lower and line up to the middle of the catch.

## **Simulated Rock Fencing**

All gate hardware for Oasis Simulated Rock Fence gates are made of powder coated stainless steel, and therefore, will not rust. The hinges allow the gate to self-close. (The tension on the spring is not adjustable.) The hinges have both vertical and horizontal adjustment to them. Simply insert an Allen wrench into either hole located on the hinge, and then turn. The vertical adjustment will allow the gate to raise or lower, while the horizontal adjustment will allow the gate to move closer to or further away from the latch post.

The latch for Oasis gates allows you to pad lock the gate on both sides of the gate. The latch is not adjustable. However, you can relocate both the striker bar and catch sides of the gate a little. If you choose to do this, locate these parts so you can cover the screw holes from the first location with the striker bar or catch

assemblies. Since the hinges are easily adjustable, in most situations the hinges will provide all of the adjustability you need to adjust the gate.

## **Aluminum Fencing**

MFOS uses exclusively D & D Technologies brand gate hardware for all of our residential and commercial grade aluminum gates. The type of hinges and latch you receive will depend on the specific gate you choose and on any requirements you need to meet such as your local swimming pool code.

All of our residential and commercial grade aluminum gates come standard with mini multi-adjust hinges. You can adjust the gate itself horizontally and vertically by loosening the appropriate acorn nuts on the hinges, adjusting the gate to the new location, and then re-tightening the acorn nuts. Be sure to NOT over tighten the acorn nuts. A 6" long wrench is recommended for tightening. This simple procedure normally needs to be performed if the striker bar is unable to enter the catch portion of the latch assembly.

The mini multi-adjust hinges have internal springs which allow the gate to self-close barring any other obstacles such as uneven or sloping terrain, or debris. The speed of how fast or slow the gate returns to the closed position can be adjusted by performing the following procedure. Remove the cap on the hinge with a Phillips screwdriver. Next, take a flat blade screwdriver and insert it into the slot. Then depress and turn the screwdriver toward the (+) symbol to add tension or toward the (-) symbol to reduce tension to the internal spring. If you don't want your gate to self-close at all, simply turn the screwdriver toward the (-) symbol until all tension to the internal spring has been released.

Most of our residential and commercial grade aluminum gates come equipped with a standard Lokk Latch. This latch is adjustable. On the striker bar side of the latch, there is a vertical slot that you can adjust up or down. This will allow you to raise or lower the striker bar in alignment with the catch portion of the latch.

All MFOS 48" and 54" high swimming pool aluminum gates come standard with the Magna Latch. The key lock mechanism (where you insert the key) can be found toward the top of the latch body near the underneath side of the latch release knob. The magna latch can be adjusted vertically by first taking out the counter sink screw at the bottom of the latch body, and then adjusting the latch body up or down as required. Once the latch body has been adjusted to the desired height, insert the counter sink screw back into a different hole of the latch body and tighten. The magna latch can also be adjusted horizontally by adjusting a set screw at the striker body (which is located on the gate itself.) Using a Phillips screwdriver, if you turn the screw counter-clockwise, this will extend the striker body toward the latch post. If you turn the screw clockwise, then the striker body will retract away from the latch post.

## **REMOVABLE SECTIONS AND POSTS**

Just about all fence sections and posts can be made to be removable. There are several ways this can be performed. The type, style, and height of the fence or railing, along with ground conditions and the location of the removable section or post will all have an impact on the design of your removable section and/or post. The following information explains the most common ways MFOS makes removable sections and posts for our vinyl fences and railings, simulated rock fences, and aluminum fences. It will also explain to you how to remove them. You will then be told how to re-insert the section or post back into its original location. It's possible that your removable section or post could be made differently than described below because of all of the factors that we need to take into consideration when designing it. If you have any questions concerning your removable section or post, feel free to give us a call, and we'll be happy to answer them.

## **Removable Section for Vinyl Fences & Railings with Wide Picket Spacing**

For vinyl fences and railings with greater than 1-1/2" spacing between the pickets, the following is the most common way MFOS makes a section removable. First, cut approximately one inch of rail off from both ends of the top and bottom rails. Remove bullet clips from the bottom rail if necessary. (Used on some styles, bullet clips are pieces of plastic inserted into 1/4" diameter holes near each end of the bottom rail. The bullet clip prevents the bottom rail from coming out of the post.) Insert shortened rails into both posts. Secure one side of top and bottom rail to one post by screwing extra long screws thru post and into one side of the top and bottom rails. Do this on the inside of the fence. You may need to pre-drill through the bottom rail if steel channel is in the way. Also, you may need to secure the other side of the section if there is a possibility that the rail can come out of the post.

In order to remove the section, take out the two screws securing the top and bottom rail to the post. Then, pull the end of the rails out of this post. Once both rails have cleared this post, pull the other end of the rails out of the adjoining post. You may leave the section assembled if you wish, or break it down to store.

When you're ready to return the section to its original location, you will need to perform the following. First, make the section. The bottom rail is typically the one with the metal insert. Make sure it's used as the bottom rail, not the top rail. Also, make sure the existing holes in the top and bottom rails where the screws were removed are on the same side of the section. Bring the section over to the area where it will be re-installed. Make sure you hold the section from the bottom. Otherwise, the pickets will come out of the rails. Next, insert the same end of the top and bottom rails into one post as far as you can. This should allow you enough clearance to swing the other end of the top and bottom rails into position and insert into the holes of the adjoining post. Once the section is back in place, line up the existing screw holes in both the post and rails. Then, using the extra long screws, re-secure the rails to the post.

## **Removable Section for Vinyl Fences with Narrow or No Picket Spacing**

For vinyl fences with less than 1-1/2" spacing between the pickets, the following is the most common way MFOS makes a section removable. First, remove any bullet clips (if applicable) from the bottom rail. (Used on some styles, bullet clips are pieces of plastic inserted into 1/4" diameter holes near each end on the bottom side of the bottom rail. The bullet clip prevents the bottom rail from coming out of the post.) Next, on one side of the top and bottom rails, cut the rails parallel with the outside edge of the post approximately 1/8" from the post. Then insert with plate wall mount brackets into the cut ends of the top and bottom rails, and secure each bracket to the rail with a screw on the inside of the fence.

At this point the section should be fully assembled. Take the end of the section where the rails have NOT been cut and insert them into the holes of one of the posts. Then take the end of the section where the with plate wall mount brackets have been inserted into the cut ends of the rails and cover the holes of the adjoining post with the with plate wall mount brackets. The last step is to secure each with plate wall mount bracket with four screws per bracket.

To remove this type of removable section simply remove all of the screws securing the with plate wall mount brackets to the post. Next, slide the with plate wall mount brackets away from the post. Once this end of the section has cleared the post, pull the other end of the section out of the adjoining post. You may leave the section assembled if you wish, or break it down to store.

When you're ready to return the section to its original location, you will need to perform the following. First, make the section. The bottom rail is typically the one with the metal insert. Make sure it's used as the bottom

rail, not the top rail. Once the section is made, bring the section over to the area where it will be re-installed. Make sure you hold the section from the bottom. Otherwise, the pickets will come out of the rails. Next, insert the end of the top and bottom rails without with plate wall mount brackets into the post with no screw holes as far as you can. This should allow you enough clearance to swing the other end of the section with the brackets inserted into the top and bottom rails into position at the adjoining post. The last step is to line the holes in the brackets with the screw holes in the post, and re-fasten the brackets to the post with screws.

## **Two Removable Sections and One Removable Post for Vinyl Fences**

To make a removable post, first dig a hole, and then set the vinyl post in the hole to your desired depth. You need to drive the bottom of the post an inch or two into the ground so concrete won't be able to enter the inside of the post at the bottom. You can drive the post down by setting a piece of wood or recycled plastic on top of the post, and then hitting the wood or recycled plastic with a two pound hammer. Next, pour concrete around the post up to approximately three inches below ground level. Now take a saw and cut the post in two approximately one to two inches below ground level. Once this has been completed, insert an aluminum post stiffener into both pieces of the removable post. Then, slightly below ground level, attach screws through both pieces of the post and into the stiffener.

At this point, follow the above procedures to make your removable sections for the style of vinyl fence you are installing. For styles with less than 1-1/2" spacing, make sure all with plate wall mount brackets get attached to both sides of the removable post. For styles with 1-1/2" or greater picket spacing, make sure all of the extra long screws get attached to the removable post.

To remove the post and sections, go to the removable post and remove all screws from the post. Next, remove the rails of both adjoining sections from the removable post. Then lift the top piece of the post off the stiffener, and lift the stiffener out of the bottom piece of the post. Store the removable sections, removable post, aluminum stiffener, and screws in a safe place. Make sure you properly cover the hole in the ground while the post is removed to prevent injury to people and pets.

When you're ready to return the sections and post to their original location, first (if necessary) make the sections. Make sure the ends of the rails with screw holes are facing toward the removable post, not the adjoining posts. Next, insert the aluminum stiffener into the bottom piece of the removable post. Then sleeve the top piece of the post over the stiffener until it meets the bottom piece. Make sure the screw holes in the top piece of the post and aluminum stiffener are in the correct location. Insert the screws back through the vinyl pieces and into the stiffener.

Now that the post is secured, first insert both removable sections into the adjoining posts. Then attach the other end of each removable section to the removable post by using screws.

## **Removable Section for Simulated Rock Fence**

Removing a section of simulated rock fence is easy to do, and takes a small amount of time. First, remove the post caps from both posts that adjoin the section you wish to remove. Next, lift the section out of the slots of the posts. Store the section in a safe place until you're ready to reinstall it.

In order to reinstall the section, lift the bottom of the section just above the adjoining posts, and slide the section down the slots of the posts. Once the section is resting on the black fence brackets, secure the pressure fitted post caps onto the adjoining posts.

## **2 Removable Sections & 1 Removable post for Simulated Rock Fence**

To make a removable post, first dig a hole to the desired depth. Next, take the steel sleeve and slide it over the bottom of the simulated rock post. Then insert the sleeve and post into the hole and pour concrete around the sleeve. Make sure no concrete gets between the sleeve and post.

In order to remove the two sections and one post, first remove the caps from the removable post and the two adjoining posts. Next, remove both sections by lifting them up along the slotted areas of the posts until the bottom of each section clears the top of the adjoining posts. Once both sections have been removed, simply lift the post out of the sleeve and store the post and sections in a safe place.

When you're ready to reinstall the removable post and two removable sections, begin by inserting the post back into the sleeve. You may need to remove debris from inside the sleeve if the debris prevents the post from entering the sleeve to the desired depth. Once the post has been reset to the desired depth, simply lower both sections into the slots of the posts until they rest on the black brackets that are already attached to the posts. After the sections have been reinstalled, secure the pressure fitted post caps onto each post, and you're finished.

## **Removable Section for Aluminum Fences**

There are two different ways to make a removable aluminum fence section. In the first method MFOS uses rail end brackets to make the removable section. The design of the rail end brackets require the location of the removable section to be in a level area. The following method can be used for all residential and commercial grade aluminum sections regardless of the picket spacing. Take one end of a section and cut all the rails vertically at the notched area which is approximately 11/16" from the end of the rail. Next, take rail end brackets and sleeve them over the cut ends of the rails. Overlap the back side of the bracket past the end of the rail approximately 1/8" and secure the bracket to the rail using a screw on the screw side of the fence. This will prevent the rail from scratching the post when removing the section. Next, take the section and insert the end without the brackets into the first post. Once this has been completed, slide the other end of the section (that has the brackets attached to the ends of the rails) over to the adjoining post and center the rail end brackets to the post. The last step is to secure the rail end brackets to the post with screws.

To remove the section, first remove all of the screws from both posts that the removable section is attached to. Next, slide the end of the section with the rail end brackets away from the post. Then pull the other end of the section out of the other post. Store the assembled section and screws in a safe place.

When you're ready to return the section to its original location, first make sure the screw side of the section is facing the correct way. Insert the end of the section that does NOT have the rail end brackets into the first post. Next, slide the other end of the section that has the rail end brackets attached over to the adjoining post. Line up the holes in the brackets to the screw holes in the post, and reattach the rail end brackets to the post with screws.

The other acceptable method to make a removable aluminum section does not require the use of rail end brackets. With this method, first of all you will need to cut approximately 3/16" off each rail at the same end of the section. Next, beginning at the notched area (which will now be approximately 1/2" from the end of the rail) measure away from the end of the rail 3/4". Then cut into both sides of each rail approximately 1/4". Once you've done this, take a pair of square-nosed pliers and bend each 3/4" x 1/4" strip back and forth until it comes off. Now you will be ready to install the removable section. After setting the first post, insert the end of the section that was NOT modified into this post and secure with screws. Then take the modified end of the section and INSERT IT ONLY 1/2" INTO THE NEXT POST, and secure the ends of each rail to this post with screws.

To remove the section, first remove all of the screws from both posts that the removable section is attached to. Next, slide the modified end of the section into the post as far as you can until the notch meets the post. The other end of the section will now be out of the other post. Swing that end of the section away from the post, and then pull the modified end of the section out of the other post. Store the assembled section and screws in a safe place. Make sure you properly cover the hole in the ground while the post is removed. This will prevent any type of injury to occur to people and pets.

When you're ready to return the section to its original location, first make sure the screw side of the section is facing the correct way. Next, insert the modified end of the section as far as you can into the post. Then swing the other end of the section over and line up the rails to the holes in the other post. Now insert the rails into this post as far as you can. At this point the holes in both ends of the rails will line up with the holes in both posts. Reattach both ends of the section to the posts with screws.

## **Two Removable Sections & One Removable Post for Aluminum Fences**

Most residential and commercial grade aluminum fences are installed using 2" square posts. The following instructions are for this size post. First, dig a hole to the desired depth. Take a 2-1/2" square post and set it in the hole. The outside edge of the 2-1/2" square post must line up with the outside edges of the other posts in the same fence line, and must be set vertically in the hole. You need to drive the bottom of the post an inch or two into the ground so concrete won't be able to enter the inside of the post at the bottom.

You can drive the post down by setting a piece of wood or recycled plastic on top of the post, and then hitting the wood or plastic with a two pound hammer. The top of this 2-1/2" square sleeve post needs to be set to approximately 2" below ground level. Once this has been done, fill the hole with concrete to approximately 3" below ground level. Make sure no concrete gets poured into the sleeve post.

Now that the sleeve post is in the correct location and has been set to the proper depth, you are ready to proceed. Take a full length 2" square post and insert it into the 2-1/2" sleeve post. Slightly under ground level, secure the 2" square post to the 2-1/2" sleeve post with a screw. At this point, follow the above procedures to make your removable sections. Make sure all rail end brackets or modified ends of the rails are located at the removable post.

To remove the sections and post, first remove all screws from the removable post. Also, remove all of the screws securing the other ends of the removable sections from the adjoining posts. If you used the rail end bracket method to make your sections removable, slide the sections with the rail end brackets attached away from the removable post. Once you have cleared the post, pull the other end of each removable section out of the adjoining posts. If you used the modified rail method, pull each removable section one at a time into the removable post. This will allow the other end of section to clear the adjoining post. Then pull the section out of the removable post. The last step is to pull the 2" square post out of the 2-1/2" sleeve post. Store the pre-assembled sections, removable post, and screws in a safe place. Make sure you properly cover the hole in the ground while the post is out of the sleeve to prevent injury to people and pets.

When you're ready to return the sections and post to their original location, first make sure the screw sides of the sections are facing the correct way. Also make sure the rail end brackets or modified ends of the rails are located by the removable post. Next, insert the 2" square post into the 2-1/2" sleeve post, and re-secure these two posts together below ground level through the existing holes with screws. Insert each removable section into the posts on both sides of the removable post. Then swing the other ends of the sections over to the removable post. If you used the rail end bracket method, attach the brackets to the removable post with screws.

If you used the modified rail method, insert the rails approximately ½” into the removable post and secure the rails to the removable post with screws.