

[Installing Racking Iron Fence Panels](#)

In addition to the print addendum below, you can also check out the two YouTube videos we did in regards to the racking fence panels:

<https://youtu.be/XnWQgzBaEPU?feature=shared>

and

<https://youtu.be/NiGWOOSHtSk?feature=shared>

If you are using our rackable iron fence panels for your project, there are 5 special installation considerations you'll need to be aware of:

1. Knowing your rise-over-run measurements for the hill
2. The different racking panel brackets
3. Post spacing and **NOT** setting your posts until the panel is racked
4. How to rack your fence panel - orientation and its limits
5. Tips on racking the fence panels

[Item #1: Knowing your rise-over-run Measurement](#)

Your rise-over-run number is the amount that you are going to need to rack your panel before installing it. So, its key to know that number in advance so you know how much we will need to rack the panel to follow the hill.

If you are unsure of how to measure for your rise-over-run, you can see a video on our YouTube channel that shows how to. You will essentially lay a 6ft long board down the hill, lift it up level and then measure to the ground to get your rise-over-run measurement.

[Item #2: Racking Panel Specialized Brackets](#)

The racking panels will use a specialized 2-tab iron cast iron bracket to mount to them to the post. These 2-tab racking panel brackets can be identified by the fact they have two tabs for self-tapping screws vs the one-tab and one screw setup the standard brackets use. They will also have an extra side hole for holding the rail when racking the panel.

The 2-tab brackets are cast to accept the angled rail of a racked panel. To accommodate this, you will need to flip the brackets over on the other end of the panel to accept the same rail angle. You want to match the bracket orientation to the direction the rail is coming into the bracket on each end of the panel.

[Item #3: DO NOT Set and Dig Posts Until Your Panel is Racked](#)

With a standard panel, there is a fixed measurement between posts whether it's a full panel or cut panel. ***This is not the case with the racking fence panels.*** While the panels are 6ft wide unracked and straight, they will 'shrink' as you rack them. **BE SURE TO MEASURE DOWN THE SLOPE TO THE NEXT POST AND NOT STRAIGHT ACROSS TO THE NEXT POST.** How much less will depend on the amount the panel is racked.

This is a key item to remember as you don't want your posts ending up too far apart after the concrete has dried and you have a mess on your hands. There are two ways you can avoid this issue when setting the posts for your racked fence panels.

- **Option #1: Pre-Rack all of the Panels Before Setting the Posts**

Pre-rack all of your panels and use them to get the distance needed between your posts before marking and digging the holes.

- **Option #2: Use Fast-Setting Concrete and Dig Posts as You Go**

Use fast-setting concrete so that you can concrete a post in, let it dry quickly, attach one end of the panel to that post and rack it down to get where your next post hole needs to be.

[Item #4: Racking Fence Panel Orientation and Limits for Installation](#)

Our racking iron fence panels can handle up to a 15in rise-over-run change across the 6ft wide panel. Do not exceed a 15in rack or you may break welds or deform the railing.

Our racking iron fence panels require that you orient them in a specific direction when you install them. To get the racking motion, there is only one weld attaching the picket to the rail. From above or below the horizontal rail, identify which side of the picket the weld is on.

When you rack your panel, you want to make sure that the side of the picket with the weld is facing DOWNHILL. Orienting the panel with the welds on the uphill side of the picket could lead to no racking or broken rail-to-picket welds.

[Item #5: Tips on Racking the Fence Panels](#)

TIP #1: Be sure to keep your rise-over-run number in mind and only rack the panel in small increments while checking your rise-over-run drop measurement at the uphill end as you go. While you can adjust the panel back in the other direction if you go too far, you want to avoid multiple back and forth adjustments as that could fatigue and break some of the welds.

TIP #2: If you are using a shorter panel or the Traditional grade iron, you may be able to simply place your panel in the grass and shove the panel from one end or while another person holds the other end. Be sure to do this over dirt or grass and not concrete that could tear up the bottom of the picket finish.

TIP #3: If you are using the heavier Signature grade iron or one of our taller 5 or 6 foot tall panels, you may want to make a stationary jig for racking your panels. To do this, you will mount the panel in an elevated position (at least 15in off the ground or down a hill) to a stationary wall or post and use leverage force to assist you.

With this method, we are going to secure the panel to a sturdy surface first and then rack it down. We recommend using a post with dried concrete in the layout, a post elsewhere in your yard or a wall in your garage or shed.

If you are using the fresh posts in your layout to rack the panel in place, be sure the fast-setting concrete you used has set fully. If you are using a wall in your garage or shed, make sure you are mounting into a wood stud and not just a drywall or a thin wall surface.

The key is we are looking for a flat and sturdy surface that won't move and that you won't mind drilling some holes into. This is also where that extra hole in the 2-tab flex bracket will come into play.

TIP #4: To rack the panel in a stationary mounted jig setup, secure one 2-tab flex bracket to the post or wall in a high enough position that there is a gap between panel and ground that is at least the same as your rise-over-run measurement.

Place the rail straight into the bracket and have someone hold the panel for you. Then drive a self-tapping screw into one of the holes on one side of the flex bracket so the rail cannot pull out.

While one person steadies the panel at the post, the other person will begin pulling down on the other end to begin racking the panel. When you have the panel racked where you want it, simply remove the screw and take the panel down for installation in your layout.

TIP #5: You can either put the additional screw in the side hole and rail at installation or leave it out and touch up the bare metal left from it being there. It's not required to hold the panel in the bracket at final installation, but it won't hurt to be in there either.