

Why is there spacing between my privacy wood fence pickets?

Wood privacy fences are very common throughout the Charlotte NC area. We install this type of fence almost each and every day. One of the most common questions we receive about our wood privacy fences will relate to why someone may be able to see a small space between the pickets on the fence.

Wood privacy fences are chosen for the privacy that they offer to the customer's home and yard. However, one of the main natural characteristics of wood is that it will expand and contract. Expansion and contraction occur when your new wood fence is exposed to different temperatures and weather conditions, as well as when the wood is wet or dry. This is not something that can be controlled as this is naturally what wood will do.

The pressure treatment on your wood fence will cause the wood pickets to be somewhat damp or wet upon installation. This may be noticeable upon touching the wood, but not just upon a visual inspection of the wood. Depending on the moisture in the boards, it is always recommended to install as tightly together as possible, however leaving a small space may be necessary to avoid buckling of the wood. This small spacing will allow the wood area to either expand or contract in different temperatures, as well as when the wood dries out or becomes wet again. This small spacing will also allow wind to pass through the fence properly.

Please note it is normal to have a small slit of spacing between pickets, especially depending on the weather and moisture of the wood. On another note, it is also normal to have a gap beneath your gate area. This is for an entirely different reasoning than wood expansion and contraction, and will be done to allow the gate to swing. Gaps where latches and hinges may be located are also necessary for the proper function and movement of your wood gate. If you have any other questions, please see our FAQ guides on our website or call us at 704-978-8809.

