

“Why is there a gap here?”

Depending on the level of your ground, there may be a gap underneath your fence or gate area. When a fence is being installed, it is normal for the fence to follow the grade of the ground, unless otherwise specified. This means that the bottom rail will go with the ground changes, as much as possible. With wood fences, this is easier than aluminum. Wood fences are stick built on site, aluminum panels are made to be rackable and adhere to most grades. However with Vinyl, this is very difficult to do. Vinyl will not bend to grade changes and therefore may have unpreventable gaps under panels or gates if there are grade changes.



Gaps under gates, as well as spaces between hinges or latches are normal. Especially if the ground changes, the gate would need a gap in order for it to swing open and shut easily. If the gate was against the ground, it would be difficult to open or close.

Due to changes in ground, the pickets are going to be set per the ground itself. This means that the bottom of the gate may not be straight in the ground is not level. The gate may be cut at an angle, or the pickets may even be staggered to go with the grade. This also means that the fence pickets may sit lower than the gate pickets. At some times, customers may say the gate looks lopsided or crooked, however, it is not installed improperly. This is common with aluminum and vinyl gates, especially if the ground is angled and the gate is not angled. With aluminum or vinyl gates, special order gates can be built to adhere to grade changes, with a max 10" angle to be made. If your gate needs a more specialized gate, the location for the gate may need to change to a flatter surface area.



Another area where there be a gap includes where the latches are. There must be room for the gate to open and shut -- and this is where the latch comes into play also.

These types of gaps are not unusual and will not adversely affect the construction of your fence.

SOLUTIONS FOR GAPS BENEATH GATES

Adding grass or even dirt can help hide the visible gap beneath your gate. This will also help if your concern is that pets may escape underneath. The fence will be installed to be as close to the ground as possible, unless otherwise specified. It is never our intention to leave a large gap, and most installers will contact you if this may occur. Some wood fences can have a board added on bottom to the inside of the fence to help fill this gap, and vinyl can also have a vinyl rail added to the bottom on the inside to fill the gap. These are the best solutions for an unavoidable gap underneath the gate area.

Please know that if there is a visible gap where the latch or hinges are may not be something that can be changed. If the gap was smaller, as the gate sags or is in use, it will eventually fail to open. There must be room between the latch and gate for the gate to swing. This is the reasoning for a space in this area.

Questions? Feel free to call us at 704-978-8809 to speak with one of our fence representatives.