

How To Field Verify Post or Column layout.

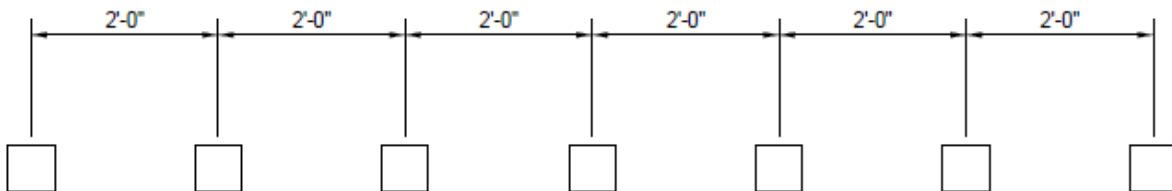
How to verify post spacing for railings and fences.

There are two methods for verifying field dimensions for post spacing.

1. Continued dimensions and ordinate dimensions.
2. Ordinate dimension

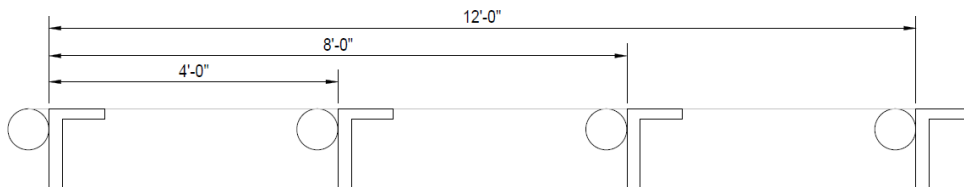
Continued dimensions are dimensions with which most people are the familiar. While continued dimensions have their place on a blueprint, these dimensions can lead to trouble when trying to take field dimensions. If one tries to use continued dimensions when measuring multiple points along a line, any errors in measuring can compound over the length of the run. For example, if you have a run of 16 posts and you measure the distance to each post to the next and you happen to be off an $1/8''$ on each measurement, you can be off $2''$ by the time you get to the end of the run.

Here is an example of continued dimensions

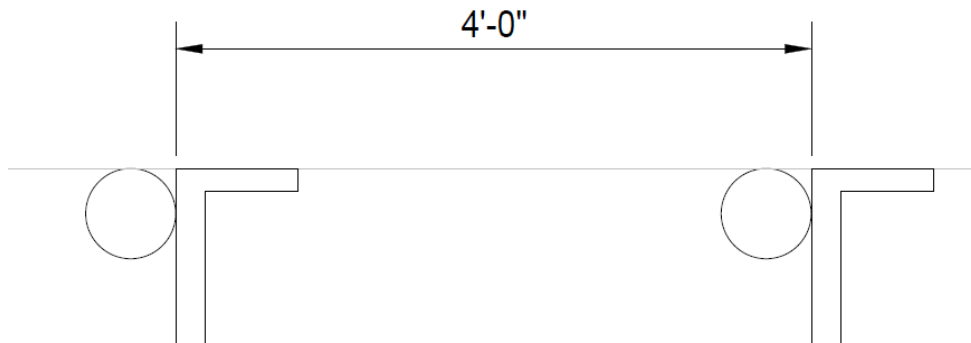


If performing continued dimensions:

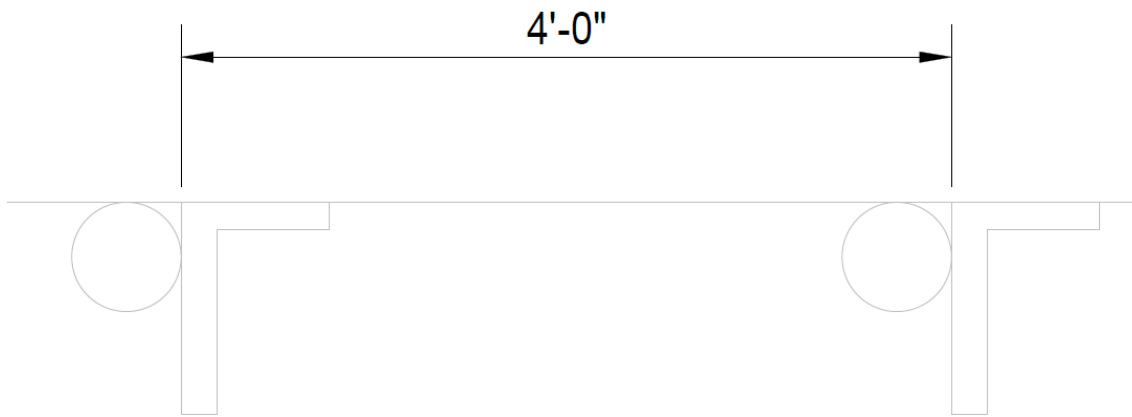
1. You should not attempt to measure from the center of the post as this is not always discernible. You should start at the face of the first post and measure to the face of the second post, face of the third post, etc.
2. If you have round post, consider using a small carpenter's square. Place one leg of the square perpendicular with the run and the other leg of the square parallel to the run. Then pull your dimension from the inside edge of the square perpendicular to the run.



3. Prepare an as-built that clearly shows the posts as a square or round symbol.
4. Clearly show a dimension line from where the dimension was pulled.

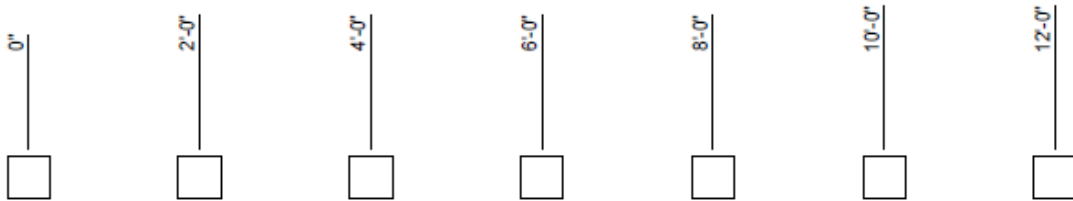


5. Use architectural standard symbols for dimension lines.



Ordinate dimension are dimensions that are measured from a zero ordinate or benchmark. Ordinate dimensions are usually a better choice for taking field dimension of a run with multiple points. With the dimensions all being pulled from the same zero point, there is less room for error.

Here is an example of ordinate dimensions



If performing ordinate dimensions, use the same process as continued dimensions stated above.

Tools needed;

Pencils, paper, clipboard

Tape measure, preferably long enough to measure the entire run if possible.

Level, preferably at least a 48" model

String line, a hammer and stakes may be needed to secure your string lines

Framing square, preferably at least 24"

Plumb bob

Site level or laser site level

Note;

Be sure to include an overall reference such as a north arrow.

When taking elevations be sure to call out the high and/or low point of grade