



# How to Use Aluminum Picket Spacers



By Neil Thorslund

*"If you want to support others you have to stay upright yourself."*

— **Peter Heg**

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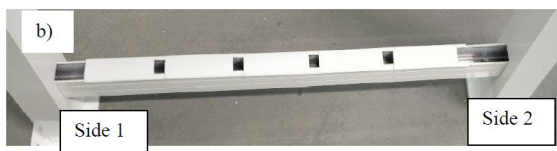
## What is the purpose of the aluminum picket spacers?

The main use of picket spacers is to help keep the pickets in place. They also help to conceal the interior of the bottom and top rail. The spacers are installed very easily. Simply apply slight pressure to the spacer, and it will snap into place. They spacers should be able to slide on the top and bottom rail if force is applied. This is useful when installing the pickets.

## How do I adjust the spacers to get equal picket spacing at each end of the rail section?

The goal in this process is to have equal spacing at each side, while having the largest possible distance between the first picket and the post. This will give the most aesthetically pleasing look.

Once you have built the frame of the rail section, lay out the spacers along the bottom rail only. Start at one side and work your way along. Once you get to the other side, it's very likely that the last spacer will not fit. Now, slide all the spacers over to the middle of the rail section (So that there is a gap on each side). If the gap on each side is 2 inches or less, remove a spacer, and then slide all the spacers back to the middle again. Now double check that the gap on each side is not more than 4”.



Now, take a spacer and cut it down to fit the space. At Side 1, cut off the flat end, and for

Side 2, cut off the pronged end. Cut two more spacers exactly the same size and use them for the top rail. You can now snap in the pickets!

**\*\*Trick\*\*** You might notice that on the top rail, the spacers you just cut will not quite fit. This is because the post is slightly unlevel. Unscrew the top rail from the post, push on the post so that it is flush with the spacers, then re-screw the top rail.



*If you have any questions, give us a call or request a quote on our website.*

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