

Stuff We Love

Our favorite DIY tools, materials + gear. By Mark Petersen

BACK SAVER

Set posts without concrete

Concrete is a solid choice for anchoring posts and poles, but nobody likes lugging around the 80-lb. bags, and mixing it is the definition of tedious. Next time you need to backfill a posthole, consider using expanding foam that's formulated for anchoring posts of all shapes and sizes.

Fast 2K Fence Post Backfill is super lightweight and forms a waterproof barrier that extends the life of wooden posts. This foam is also strong enough to resist lateral force of more than 500 lbs. and has a compression strength three to four times that of tamped soil. And it doesn't need to be mixed with water. You just pull the clip that separates the two components, mix the bag for 30 seconds and pour the liquid down the hole. The post/poles will be ready for use in just 15 minutes!

What's the downside? You have to be very careful that the post/pole stays perfectly still while the foam is curing. And it's more expensive: \$12 for 26 fl. oz. instead of \$5 for an 80-lb. bag of concrete (about what you'd need for one post). But when you're figuring the overall price of your project, don't forget to include a

week's worth of chiropractic visits on the "concrete" side of the ledger. Fast 2K is available at menards.com.



Expanding Foam