

EXACT PRODUCTS BULLETIN

Unloading Shipping Containers of Vinyl Fence Lineals

This bulletin provides suggestions with regard to unloading shipping containers containing vinyl fence lineals and accessories from Exact Products, Inc. , as well as the typical packaging found in the shipping container.

Packaging:

Typical packaging in the container will be as follows:

- All lineal materials will be in plastic sleeves, which are taped at the ends.
- There will be two posts per sleeve, four rails per sleeve, 7 or 8 privacy panels, etc. The number of parts in a sleeve can be requested to be user friendly. For example, one might request 11 or 12 pickets per sleeve to match the number of pickets in a section of picket fence.
- Vinyl accessories, hardware and gates will be in corrugated boxes or other corrugated protection.
- There will be little to no dunnage, stringers or pallets in the container to maximize the cubic volume of the container.

Unloading:

The key to an efficient unloading of the container is being organized before the container arrives. Typically, the shipping company will drop the container for one or two days.

The following is a typical process for unloading the container:

- The container must be unloaded by hand; if a labor crew of 3 to 4 people are not readily available, most companies will hire a temporary crew (for approximately ½ day) from Manpower or a similar company.
- A supervisor should be present to keep the process organized, and to move finished units into storage.
- Before starting the unloading process, lay out stringers on which each SKU in the container can be separated and placed.
- Typically, use 4 stringers for 16' profiles, 3 stringers for 12' profiles and 2 stringers for 8' profiles. Stringers should start about 18" from the end of the lineal.
- Depending on the amount of forklift handling, a section of corrugated on the stringers may be advantageous where the forks contact the product.
- The top rows in the container will typically require a ladder to get started. After a "hole" has been created, one laborer moves inside the container; later two people will be needed in the container.
- Place the volume of lineals desired on each set of stringers, band the unit at each stringer location and move it to storage.

- Depending on how tight you want the finished unit, a couple of wraps of stretch wrap around the whole unit (horizontally, vertically or both) can be easily added before moving it to storage.
- With a 40' or 40' high cube container, the entire process should take 4 to 6 hours depending on the number in the crew and how fast they perform. A 20' container will take considerably less time.

Palletizing:

It is possible to get your fence products palletized to make unloading the container faster. However, this does raise the cost of the product since the extra packaging takes up room in the container and replaces product. Most customers find that unloading the container as described above is the more economical approach. However, if palletizing is of interest, please request a quote.

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