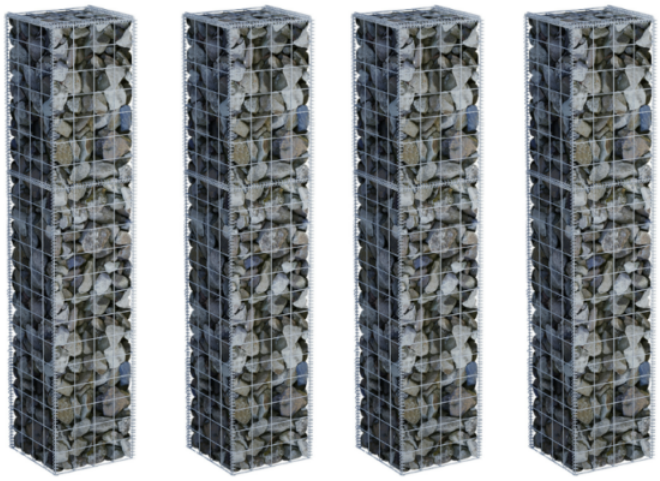
How to Make Gabion Pillars

Last updated 2 November 2026

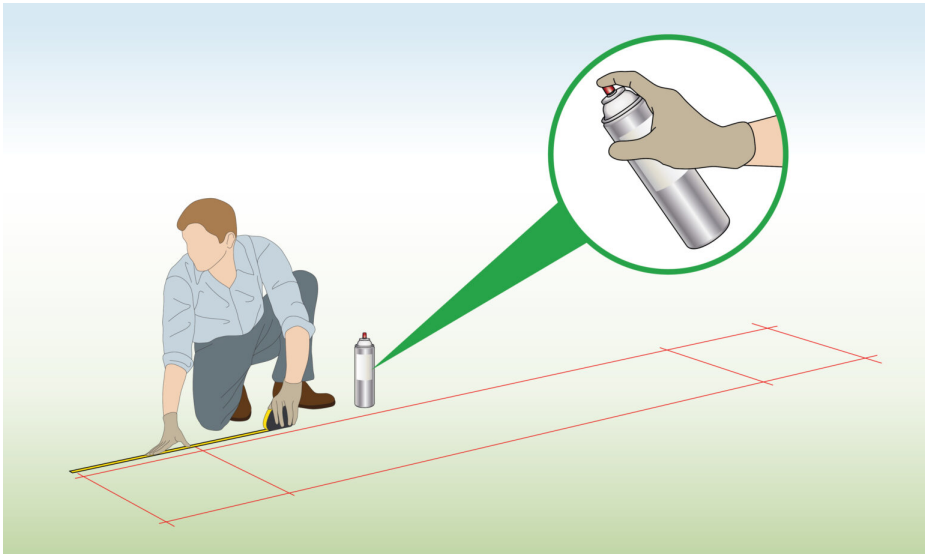
Below you will find a step by step guide on how to make gabion pillars.



- **Difficulty level:** Medium
- **Tools Required:** Shovel, Spirit Level, Spray Paint (optional), Protective Gloves
- **Materials Required:** Gabion, Gabion Stone, Helicoils/Lacing Wire, Support Post, Bracing Wire, Concrete

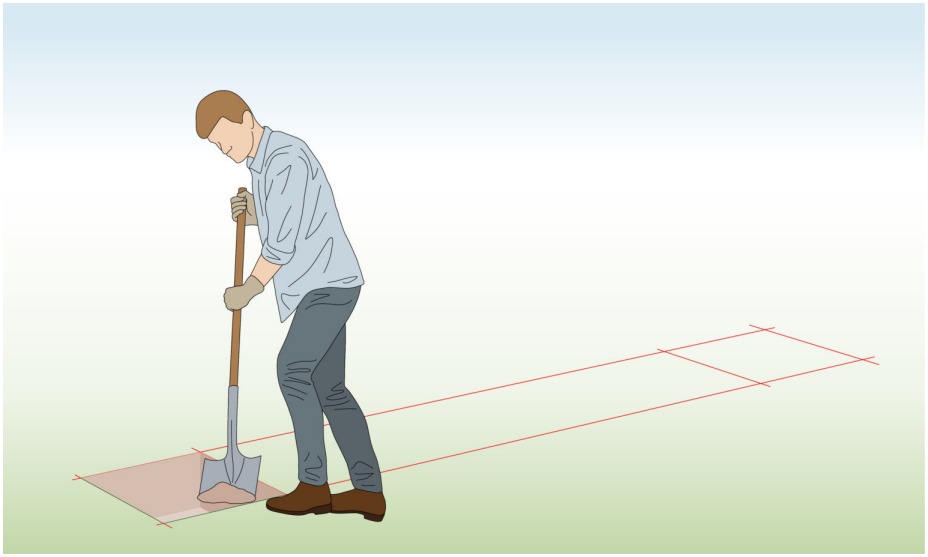
Pillars are tall and narrow, so they are more than twice as tall as they are deep. This means they always need an internal support post set in concrete. See our gabion wall rules for more on heights and support posts.

Step 1) Mark the Location



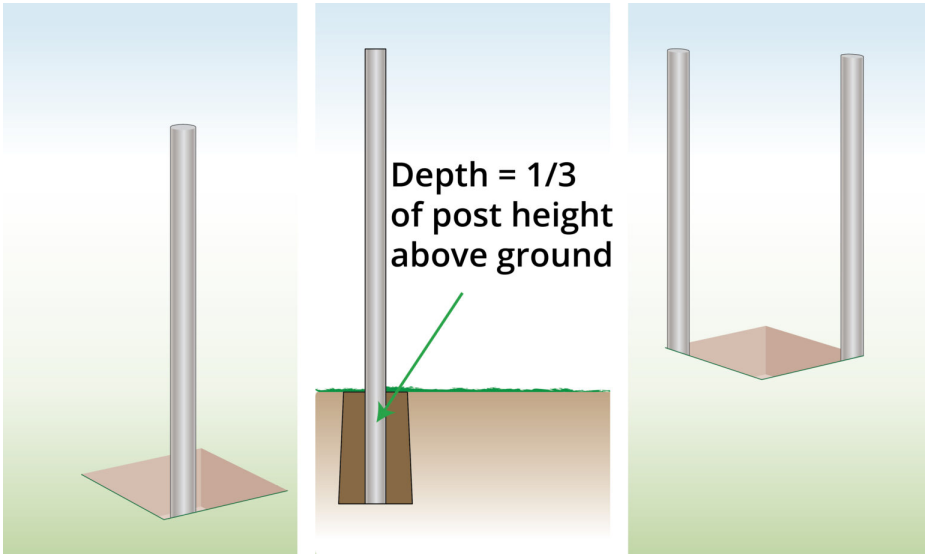
- Mark where you want your pillar using spray paint, stones or similar.
- Mark the full outline of the pillar's base.

Step 2) Dig the Hole



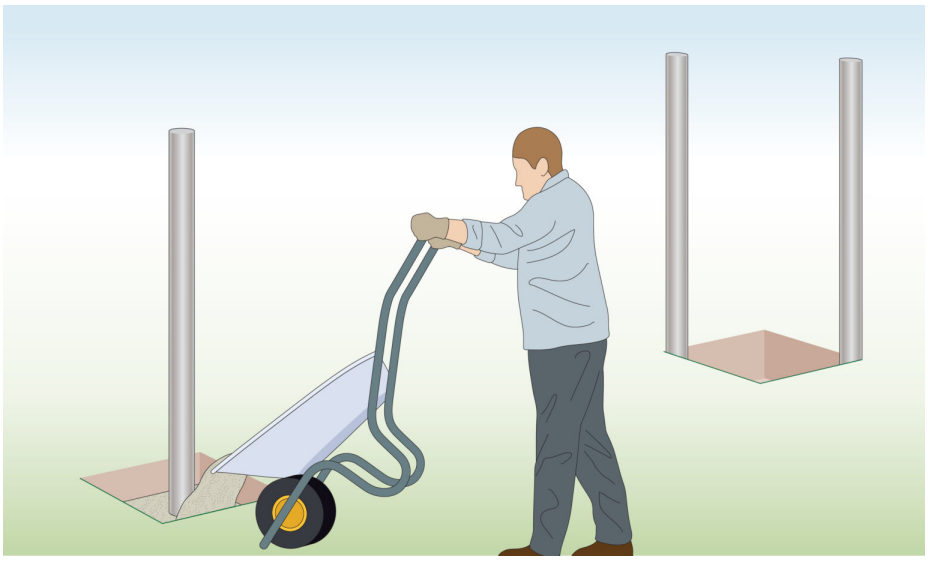
- Dig a hole for the post, about a third of the pillar's height deep. For a 1.5m pillar, that's about 50cm.
- Then dig out the base of the pillar 10-15cm deep so the concrete pad covers it.

Step 3) Install the Support Post



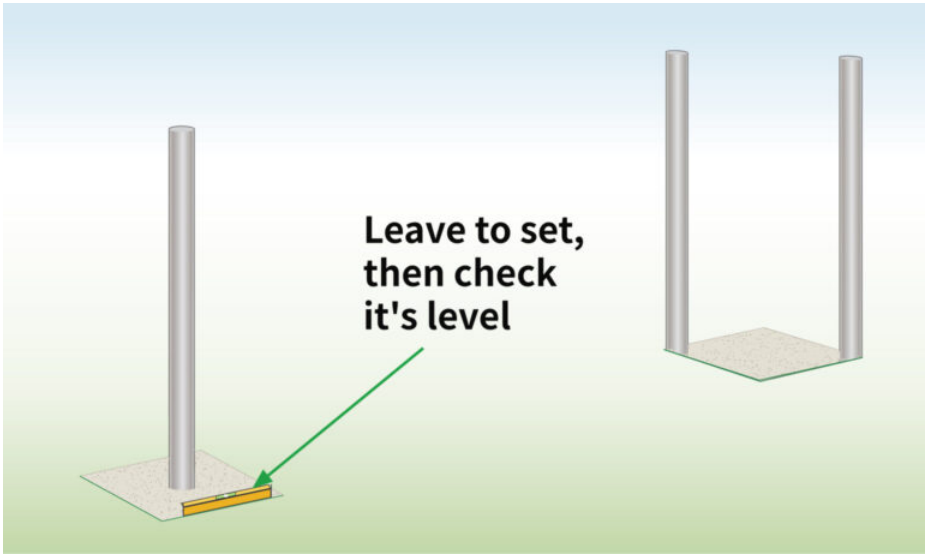
- Stand a metal or treated timber post in the centre of the hole.
- The post goes inside the gabion and should run at least two-thirds of the way up it.
- Check it's upright with a spirit level.
- If the post is hollow, seal the top to keep water out.

Step 4) Pour the Concrete



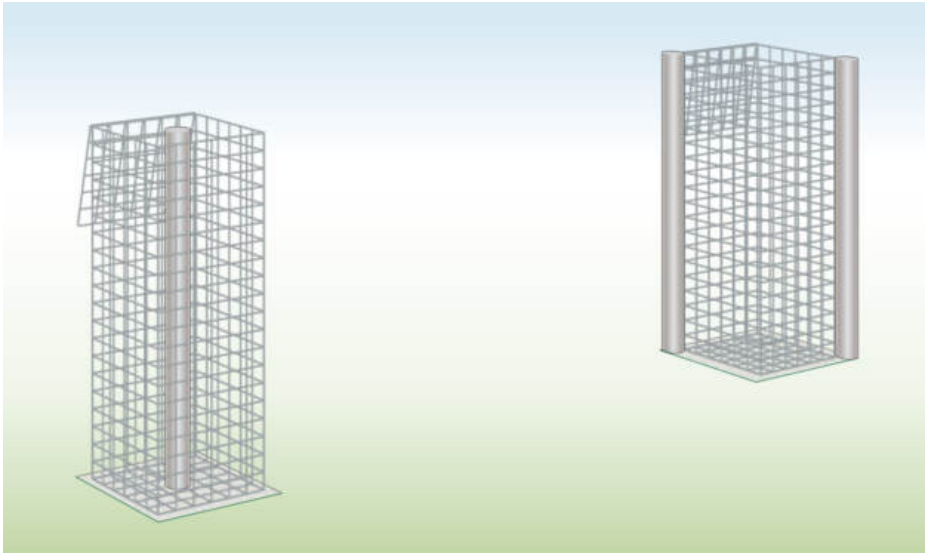
- Fill the hole with concrete around the post.
- Make sure the concrete fills the whole base of the pillar.
- Smooth the top so it's flat and level with the ground.

Step 5) Let It Set and Check It's Level



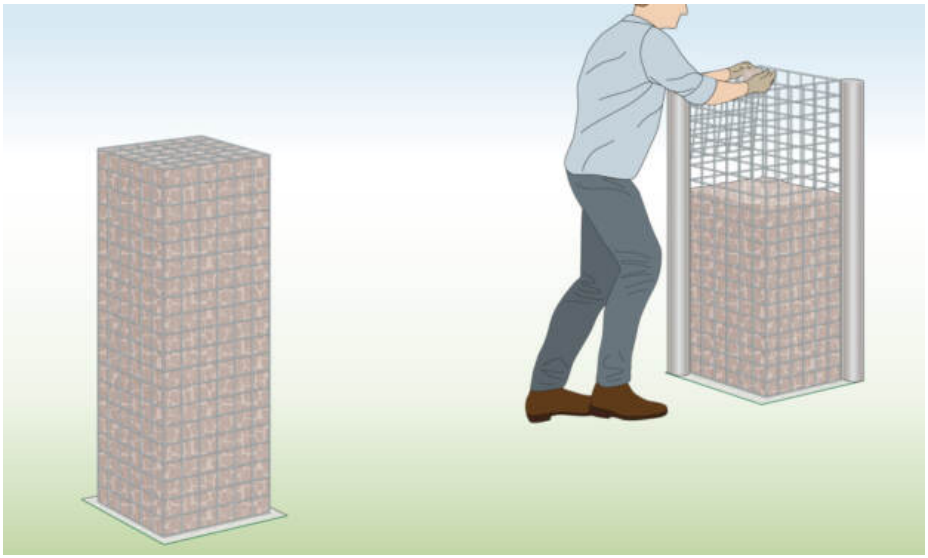
- Leave the concrete to set before you add the basket. Check the bag for setting times.
- Keep checking the post stays upright while it sets.
- Use a spirit level to check the concrete is flat and level.
- Your gabion will sit straight on top. No gravel or basecourse is needed.

Step 6) Install the Basket



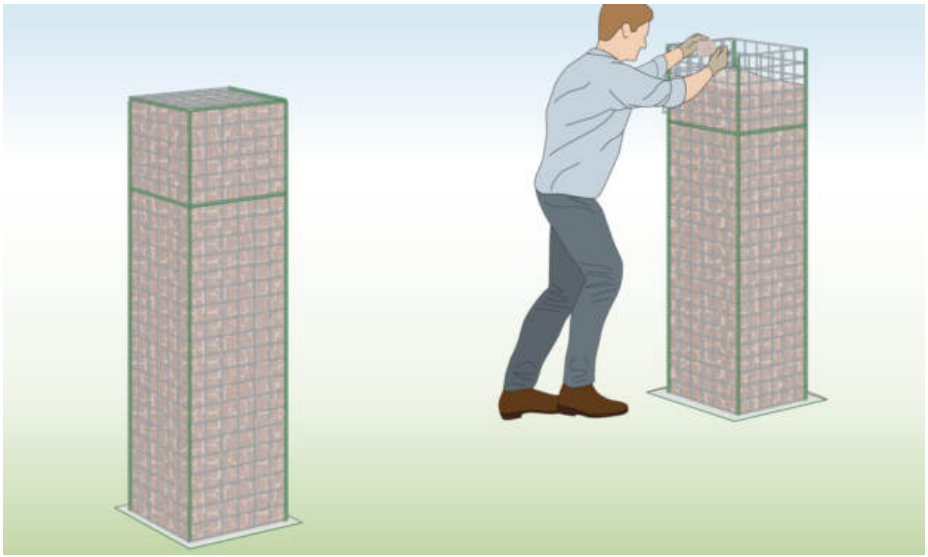
- Lower the gabion over the post so the post sits inside it.
- Fix the post to the basket with bracing wire.
- Or use two posts on the outside of the basket.

Step 7) Fill the Gabions



- Fill the gabion with stone, packing it around the post.
- Close the lid and secure it with helicoils.

Step 8) Make up the Height



- When stacking 2 baskets to make up the height:
  - Attach helicoils on three sides to link the second cage to the first.
  - Fill the top basket as well.

TIPS AND TRICKS

- Use spray paint or stones to mark the location of your gabion pillars clearly. This helps you get the placement and alignment right.
- Sink the support post about a third of the pillar's height into the ground and set it in concrete. This is what stops a tall, narrow pillar from tipping.
- Sealing the tops of hollow posts keeps water out and makes them last longer.
- Make sure the concrete is level before you add the basket, so your pillar stands straight.
- You can calculate how much stone you'll need using our stone calculator.

FURTHER READING

- How to Build a Gabion Wall: Our gabion rules for foundations, heights and support posts.
- Gabion Fence Installation: A guide for building a gabion fence, using pillars.
- DIY Gabion Letterbox: A step-by-step guide for creating a gabion letterbox, which can be attached to pillars.
- Gabion Learning Hub: A library of help videos.

You can make any size gabion to construct a gabion pillar in our shop. We make them to order so you get the exact size you need. We also sell gabion stones quarried in the UK and all the accessories needed to make a pillar.

VIDEO

Video: Watch the video on YouTube