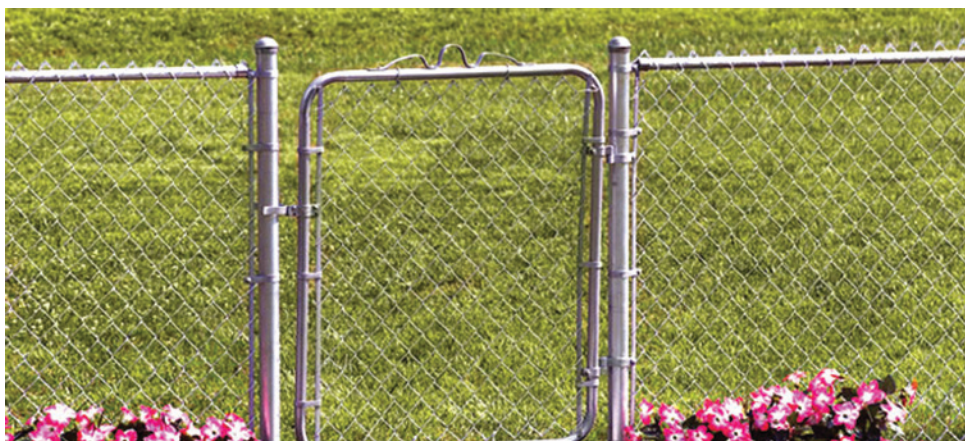**Skill Level: INTERMEDIATE** Give these projects a try if you're a confident DIYer with a good working knowledge of a variety of tools. They can take a day or more to complete. If you can build a birdhouse or install a ceiling fan, your skill level is probably appropriate.

In these instructions, you'll learn how to install the fence fabric (chain link material) and gate for a chain link fence. Before starting the installation, watch the previous video with printable instructions in this series, *Chain Link Fence Installation Tips: Installing Posts and Hardware*, at **Lowes.com/Videos**.

MATERIALS

- ☐ Chain Link Fence Fabric
- ☐ Tension Bars
- ☐ Pre-built Gate
- ☐ Gate Hardware and Bolts
- ☐ Measuring Tape
- ☐ Fence Stretcher or Come-Along
- ☐ Tension Wire Clips/Hog Rings
- ☐ Wire Ties
- ☐ Pliers
- ☐ Level
- ☐ Socket Wrench and Sockets
- ☐ Temporary Support Wood Blocks
- ☐ Safety Glasses
- ☐ Work Gloves

HANGING CHAIN LINK FENCE FABRIC

01 With the fabric roll upright against your first terminal post, slide a tension bar through the diamonds in the fence fabric and the tension bands on the post.

02 Unroll the fence fabric along the line posts to the next terminal post. The fabric can be unrolled on the ground or against the posts, depending on terrain and help.

▲ **TIP** Wear work gloves when working with fence fabric as it can pinch skin.

03 If you laid the fabric down to unroll it, set it upright against the line posts. Walk along the fabric and take up the slack.

04 Attach the fabric to the top rail with a few wire ties to help keep it in place.

IMPORTANT
Before you install chain link fence fabric or a gate, watch the appropriate videos with instructions in the Lowe's *Fence Installation Tips* series. If you are not comfortable planning and installing a fence, discuss the job with a Lowe's associate. For a professional installation, call 1-877-GO LOWES.

HANGING CHAIN LINK FENCE FABRIC (cont.)

05 At the end, remove excess fence fabric or add more fabric as needed.

■ To remove excess fabric at the end of the run:

1. Use pliers to open the top and bottom loop on one wire strand at the point of separation. (fig. 1)
2. Unwind the wire strand through the links until the fabric comes apart. (fig. 2)

■ To add more fabric:

1. Use pliers to open the top and bottom loop on the last wire strand.
2. Unwind one wire strand. You'll use this to connect the two pieces of fabric.
3. On the second piece of fabric, use pliers to open the top and bottom loop on the first wire strand. You may have to remove a second strand to make the two sets of fabric match accordingly.
4. Pull the two pieces of fabric together, and wind the loose strand through both pieces.
5. Join and tighten the loops at the top and bottom.

(fig. 1)

(fig. 2)

06 Insert a temporary tension bar into the fabric about 3' from the end. This will be used to attach the stretcher bar. (fig. 3)

07 Add a temporary tension band on the terminal post. This will be used to attach the come-along to the post.

08 Hook the stretcher bar to the temporary tension bar.

09 Attach a fence stretcher or come-along to the stretcher bar and to the temporary tension band on the post. (fig. 4)

(fig. 3)

(fig. 4)

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HANGING CHAIN LINK FENCE FABRIC (cont.)

10   Use the fence stretcher to slowly and evenly tighten the fabric. There should be just enough tension so that you cannot squeeze the fabric with your fingers. *Do not overtighten.*

11   Walk along the fence and adjust the fabric as needed to ensure that it is tightly against the posts and the bottom is firmly against the ground.

12   Pull slack from the fabric between the fence stretcher and end post with your hands. Make sure you're wearing gloves.

13   Insert a tension bar through the fabric and tension bands on the terminal post, and secure the bolts. (fig. 5)

14   Carefully loosen and remove the stretching tools.

15   Secure the fence fabric to the top rail and line posts with wire ties, and to the tension wire with clips.

16   Continue installing fence fabric between terminal posts until the entire fence, except the gate(s), is completed.

(fig. 5)

INSTALLING GATE AND HARDWARE

01   Attach the post hinges about 8" from the top and bottom of the post with bolts and a socket wrench.
- Install the **top hinge** with the pin pointing **down**. (fig. 6)
- Install the **bottom hinge** with the pin pointing **up**.

(fig. 6)

02   Loosely attach the frame hinges to the gate so they stay in place, but can be adjusted later.

03   Set the gate in position with about 2" of clearance at the bottom. Use blocks underneath to help hold it in place.

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INSTALLING GATE AND HARDWARE

04   Slide the bottom frame hinge onto the bottom post hinge, then tighten the bolts. (fig. 7)

05   Slide the top frame hinge onto the top post hinge, then tighten the bolts.

06   Install the gate latch at a comfortable height, then secure it to the latch post with bolts. (fig. 8)

(fig. 7)

▲ **TIP**   If small children will be in the fenced area, install the gate latch high enough so they cannot easily reach it. Also consider installing a child-resistant gate latch.

07   Test the gate to verify that it swings smoothly.

1. Use a carpenter's level to make sure the gate is level and plumb.

2. As needed, adjust the frame hinges on the pins.

(fig. 8)

08   To maintain a chain link fence:

■ Apply lubricant to the gate hardware about once a year, typically in the spring.

■ Rinse the fence as needed with a water hose and sprayer.

Your new chain link fence is complete. For other valuable do-it-yourself projects, check out the other videos and printable instructions at **Lowes.com/Videos**.