

Wisconsin firm helping engineer new standards for anchoring fence posts

WAUNAKEE, Wisconsin — Qual Line Fence Corporation has been working with ASTM International Committee F14 on Fences in the development of new standards for anchoring steel fence and gate posts without the use of traditional concrete footings.

According to Ray Statz, chairman of Qual Line Fence Corporation in Waunakee, Wisconsin, the new standard details an efficient method for installing drive anchor systems that stabilize fences, flagpoles, sign posts, and other vertical elements such as column. This is a method that Qual Line Fence has employed with numerous installations over the past two decades, Statz noted.

"It is an efficient method for installing fence posts that eliminates cure time for cement, completes in a single-trip installation, lessens disruption and mess at an installation site, is not susceptible to frost heaving and reduces the weight of material to be brought to a job site," he added.

With seasonal frost a factor in many regional areas, contractors find it is difficult and often commercially impractical to prepare a concrete post anchor that will provide adequate strength and resist frost heave, Statz said. Regional testing has shown that a drive anchor installation at least 39 inches wide at the base is not affected by frost heave, efficiently creating a solid installation.

1. First, a main post is driven deep into the ground, well below the frost

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