

FAQs

What is a PasturePro post?

A PasturePro post is an oriented composite rod. GFC is the only company in the world licensed to use a patented, second-generation manufacturing process that produces a post that is self-insulating, extremely strong, and flexible.

What do you mean by “oriented”?

The orientation process is what sets our product apart from all other fence posts and composite material on the market. To apply the forces that result in orientation, GFC uses a process similar to metal strengthening methods such as rolling, drawing, or forging. Much like wood, the properties in this oriented material are significantly higher along the grain than in other directions. This process creates a material that is half the weight and twice the strength of other composite materials.

What materials are in these posts?

Our products consist of reclaimed wood flour (30-40%), polypropylene (60-70%), and a small percentage of process additives such as pigments and UV inhibitors. Our products do not contain any PVC or fiberglass and we take great care in avoiding the use of hazardous materials during our manufacturing process.

Why use polypropylene and not other plastics?

After looking at our options, we quickly determined that the best plastics were polyethylene (PE), and polypropylene (PP). We chose PP because we were looking for a polymer that had the ability for a high draw ratio and a large increase in tensile strength as a result of the drawing process. In other words, we can create a lighter weight yet very stiff product by using PP. We also liked that PP is a widely used plastic, is considered “food-safe” and can be recycled.

Have I seen these posts before?

There have been over 1 million of these posts put in the ground since 2004, and you have likely heard of them as the Powerflex Post. PowerFlex Fence, the original independent distributor of GFC’s composite post, will continue to sell our posts, but we have now established a dedicated division within GFC that is focused solely on supporting our distributors and dealers. GFC is the only company in the world to use this patented process commercially. The process was invented in 2001 and patented in 2005. Weyerhaeuser, one of the world’s largest forest products companies, bought the patent in 2006.

How long will the posts last?

Weyerhaeuser, the patent-holder for our process, has used advanced weathering testing under extreme water, humidity and UV conditions. Using the data from this research, PasturePro posts should last at least 20 years. So far, the first posts put in the ground in 2004 have not given any reason to think otherwise.

Weyerhaeuser has the resources to spend the large amount of money needed to demonstrate that these products will last. This kind of testing is expensive, and many companies skip it for that very reason. We feel fortunate to have Weyerhaeuser as our patent-holder, because we think customers really appreciate knowing there is research behind the claims.

Can the PasturePro posts break?

When bent to extremes the rod can produce a bulge, but it’s next to impossible to break it in two.

Why no fiberglass?

A number of reasons. Handling the material in our manufacturing process introduces hazards that are expensive to control. There are also environmental considerations when sawing/machining finished posts, and post-production recycling the plastic with fiberglass is very difficult and expensive.

Perhaps most importantly, fiberglass does not bring any performance benefit to our posts, and our customers would also have to take some extra steps handling the posts in the field. It is advised by most fiberglass post manufacturers that you wear gloves when handling the posts. Our PasturePro posts will not give you splinters like fiberglass posts.

Is a special cap needed when driving a PasturePro post like those used for fiberglass posts?

No, there is nothing extra needed when driving the posts. They have been heat podded on top and are tough.

Why do the PasturePro posts stay in the ground so much better than fiberglass rod?

We really don't know the answer to that question. We think it may be because of the textured, wood-like feel of the posts.

How does PasturePro post compare to a t-post with an insulator?

In addition to being lighter weight and quicker/easier to install, PasturePro posts are self-insulated, which helps to ensure that the voltage on the wire stays on the wire, instead of being leaked through either cracked, broken or faulty insulators or even through tall grass touching both the T-post and the wire.

Hi-tensile wire can stretch and return when stressed and a PasturePro post allows it to do so because the post flexes with the wire, in contrast to the the rigidity of a T-post and insulator. A T-Post is really just a ground rod with an insulator attached, and each individual insulator is a liability to your fence. T-Post insulators often get pulled off or break, resulting in a short.

How are these posts driven?

Basically, these posts can be driven with any manual post driver, just like you would use for driving steel t-posts. You will notice that they have a little more spring (bounce) to them, but if you can drive a steel t-post you can drive these posts. We do recommend a Pilot Driver in extremely hard or rocky soil.

How is the wire attached to the post?

In most cases, the wire is attached to the post with a cotter pin through a drilled hole.

Are the posts pre-drilled?

No, but these posts can be easily field drilled with any cordless drill. There is virtually no bit run off due to the surface texture and softness of the material. Drilling these posts is about like drilling softwood. We also feel that pre-drilling and having unused holes will weaken any post. Our overall recommendation is to drive the posts, then drill in the field. This will give you a better overall finished product and allow for hole spacing options where you have terrain challenges.

If I want to remove a post at a later time, what is the best way to do so?

PasturePro posts are permanent fence posts, but there are times removing posts is necessary. We've found the best way is either using a t-post puller or using a pipe wrench low down on the post and turning while applying upward pressure.