

INSTALLATION

STEEL SOCKETED GOAL POSTS

The anti vandal design is the latest innovation in permanently positioned steel football goal posts. The uprights are laser cut and are precise and can be used in any ground socket on any pitch. Lockable anti vandal goal posts cannot be removed from the ground with crossbar and uprights intact. This is one of the key safety features of this new patented design. When not in use always store goal post crossbars and uprights flat to the ground or on special racks or shelves. Never store crossbars intact with uprights attached and never leave goal posts or uprights leaning vertically against a wall or shed.

Crossbar corners on these goals are welded both internally and externally before having three further spot welds to ensure they will stand up to the most rigorous conditions. Electro plated corner brackets and ground sockets give extra life to metal work and unseen internal welds. Industrial nylon Arrowhead net fixings used on all our steel goal posts are fitted on crossbars uprights and help protect the paintwork. The arrowhead net fixing on both uprights and the crossbar makes fitting goal nets on match days quick and easy compared to other steel goals.

When installing your goals take your time and get it right first time and you will have optimum performance. Read the fitting instructions carefully before proceeding. If you feel in any way unsure about installation a competent local builder may be able to help or you can contact our technical director who will talk you through it.

Before installing the ground sockets you need to check that your pitch is square as if not your playing area will have one touchline longer than the other. The builders rule 3-4-5 (three metres along goal line, 4meters down touchline and 5 metres between both points is a good way to check the corners are at ninety degrees. (Pythagoras)

Once your playing area is square and marked out check the measurement between each diagonal line before you start excavating your holes. Once you are sure the pitch is square mark the middle of each goal line. Work out from this marker (the centre of the goal posts) the position of the uprights to enable you to dig your holes for the ground. (12 foot on adult goals 10'6" on 21 foot wide goals, 8 foot on 16foot wide goals and 6 foot on 12 foot wide goals.- measured to the inside of uprights)

Excavate your holes for the ground sockets and put in a small amount of pea gravel or grit sand to level the bottom of the hole. Make a drain hole down through the centre of the excavated hole to help allow water to soak away. Lower the ground socket into the hole at one side. Insert the upright twist and

lock into the ground socket and position the upright with the lock housing to the rear (not facing the pitch) and start to drop a dry mix of concrete around the base of the socket to hold the post and the socket upright. Double check the position is the correct distance from the centre mark on the goal line and plumb up. With a large level check that the upright is it is not leaning inwards, forwards, backwards or sideways and that the base is the correct depth .Fill in around the sides of the ground socket with concrete as per the diagram on the fitting instructions.

The upright post should be eight foot less the distance under the corner (15mm) from the ground level. Too deep and you will need to lower the pitch around the posts too high and you will need to higher your area around the posts. Adjust to the correct height with stones or pea gravel under the base plate before filling with concrete. You need to do this on both goals at both ends of the pitch until you have two of the upright posts standing vertical and in the right position on both ends of the pitch. Fill these in and compact the soil around the foot of the posts to ensure they are secure. These can then be used to support the rest of the goal as you concrete in the other uprights.

The second uprights need to be positioned into the remaining excavated holes prepared at the other side of the goal post position and then the upright dropped into the hole in the same way as before. Level to the correct height and then use a small amount of concrete to support the socket with the post inside in the approximate finished position. Lift the crossbar onto both the fixed and the unfixed uprights and insert the locks. The crossbar is heavy so ensure you have enough helping hands or suitable lifting gear to lift the crossbar on and off the uprights. Make sure no children are near whilst fitting or removing the goal posts. Never at any time stand underneath the crossbar.

Once the crossbar is positioned on both uprights and the locks are fitted the second upright can be moved and lined up along the goal line and positioned vertically in the same way as before ensuring the base is at the correct depth.

Compact the concrete and soil and leave the goal with the crossbar attached until it is totally secure. DO not leave the goal until you are happy that the concrete has set fully and that the goal is secure. Once the ground sockets are securely fixed in place the uprights can be twisted ninety degrees and removed without the ground socket moving.

Net fixings require the pins moulded on the end of the arrowhead inserting down the middle of the fixing to lock in position. To remove just knock the securing pin right through. The net supports positioned on the crossbar enable the net head support cord to be as tight as you require it to be. These net supports are easily fitted on match days and we recommend that they be stored with the nets in locations prone to vandalism or areas that have active young children and teenagers about. They can be left in position on the crossbar in supervised or secure areas. Although they are very strong the electro plated net supports are designed with safety in mind and will give prior to any goal post corner welds being weakened.

MAINTENANCE

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To keep the goal posts in good working order we recommend grease be applied inside the lock housing to facilitate easy removal of the lock case. Oil and clean the lock to ensure the key is working well at all times. If a key breaks inside the lock it can be removed with a special pick. Spare keys and locks are readily available.

Never lift the goal with the lock in place. The goal can not be lifted, stolen or tampered with when the locks are in place. The crossbars are heavy and care should be taken when lifting on and off the uprights. Never stand under the crossbar always stand to the side. If the crossbar is lifted by mechanical means then it must be lifted equally from the centre and not one end as at time as this will bend and damage the end not being lifted. If they are to be lifted out manually then they must be lifted at each end simultaneously.

When the goal is not in the sockets we recommend that an old pair of tights is filled with old rags and pushed inside socket to collect debris and grass growth. A plastic cap can then be pushed on top. In unsupervised areas prone to vandalism a twist and lock socket plug is available at extra cost. A wooden plug can also be used is another way of protecting the sockets in the close season. If you verti drain your pitch indicate to the grounds man the position of the sockets to prevent damage. We suggest that 50mm wide plastic stretch (electricians) tape be wrapped around the base of the posts about 600mm up from the ground to protect the paintwork from goal keepers kicking the foot of the posts to clean boots. This tape can be found on our web site or any local DIY store.

At the base of the upright below ground we recommend that a stronger duct tape be wrapped around the post .These areas of the uprights are lifted in and out and are more prone to the paintwork being chipped and by applying tape it will help prevent this from happening. The thicker this duct tape is applied the better the fit into the ground socket . Any movement (slack) can be taken out by applying more tape.

Oil the insides of the uprights at the top and also the connectors that are lowered into the uprights at regular intervals and this will help prevent rust from building up inside the posts. At the end of the season when the goals are not in use check all welds to ensure they have not become damaged. Check periodically through the season especially in any location prone to vandalism.

A thorough inspection should be carried out each year and recorded. Every time goal posts are installed and used they should be checked for damage. A goal

post maintenance sheet is available to be down loaded from our web site www.itsagoal.net . Problems should be recorded, noted down and acted upon straight away. Goals need to be treated and handled with care for optimum performance. Any paint chips need to be repaired as soon as possible. Rub down with emery paper to form a smooth surface down to bear metal (remove all rust) and apply a good quality undercoat and then a top coat to seal the area being painted. Water will penetrate between the powder coat finish and the base metal if left un checked and the paint work will start to peel away. Any local DIY store will supply cans of white aerosol paint.

You should never allow anyone to use socketed steel goal posts that are unstable, have nuts and bolts missing or do not have appropriate net supports holding the net away at the top of the goal..

NEVER USE DAMAGED GOAL POSTS & GOAL NETS