

Gate barrier for tortoises

A gate barrier will protect your tortoise in two ways:

- Your tortoise will not be able to escape even if your gate is left open.
- Your tortoise will not be able to see outside the gate. It will not be frustrated by not being able to get out.

We will create a slot or channel on facing sides of each gatepost and slip a piece of wood into the slot. Consider which way the gate opens so the barrier can remain in place when the gate is open. The wood must be flush with the ground so the tortoise doesn't see any light peeking through.

If the tortoise can see light, it will tend to dig. A footing of bricks or concrete ensures the tortoise does not dig under the barrier.

Materials

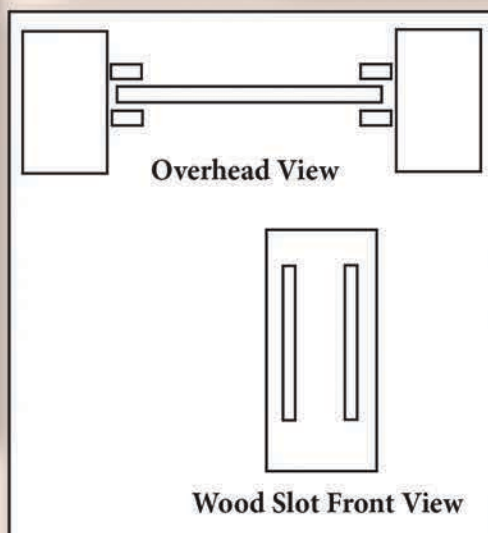
Many materials can be used to make the slots for the gate barrier.

- Two parallel pieces of wood
- Aluminum C Channel
- Pairs of angle brackets
- Broom clips
- Pairs of screws or nails

Mounting Materials

For Concrete:

- Tapcon carbide-tipped concrete drill bit
- Tapcon anchors (anchors have a blue coating)



Barrier Board

Cut a piece of plywood or other wood 18" inches high by slightly smaller than the finished size of the barrier opening. Slip the board into the slot you have created. Applying a finish will help to prevent warping. Painting the barrier the color of the gate or adjacent walls will make it less conspicuous.

Mounting Instructions

1. Lay out mounting pieces on the gate post. Make the slot 1½ times the thickness of the board.
2. If you are using angle brackets, broom clips, screws or nails, mount one set near the top of the barrier and one set near the bottom.
3. Mark and drill the holes.



Although the gate is open, a gate barrier prevents the tortoise from escaping.

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