



Wood Post Mounting Instructions

INSTALLING THE AMADOR BARN OWL BOX

NOTES:

1. One or two nesting boxes for every ten acres of rodent infested land is recommended.
2. Although the box should be located away from dense woods, nearby trees give the fledgling owls a place to perch outside of the box while they learn to hunt.
3. Face the opening away from the prevailing wind.
4. To deter predators from attempting to climb up to the nesting box, wood posts should have a 3-foot width of metal flashing wrapped around the base of the post 1 foot above the ground. In vineyard situations, it is very helpful to number the boxes before they are installed.
5. No straw or other materials are required inside the box. The owl will create a footing of its own by stomping the pellets it naturally produces.

Materials Needed

1. 14' (or taller) section of 4x4 wooden post (18-24" of this will be in the ground), redwood or pressure treated posts are advised (4x6 size posts are fine also.)
 1. optional: a sealer to coat at least the bottom 4 feet of the post, or entire post
 2. optional: exterior silicone sealant
2. Hardware kit, supplied
3. Amador Predator Guard (available separately) or smooth metal flashing: *Copper, Aluminum etc. *copper is very attractive. Enough to cover around entire post for 3' vertically.
4. Mounting hardware (available separately)
5. 1 to 2 50lb bags of post hole concrete + water

Tools Needed

1. Shovel
2. Post-hole digger or auger (6" or 8")
3. A level, but having 2 will enable simultaneously measuring both planes of movement
4. Drill & bits to pre-drill bolt hole through post
5. Bucket, wheel barrow etc. to mix the post hole concrete in
6. Ladder high enough to enable attaching barn owl box to post (or any other method to enable working at 13' elevation)
7. Socket wrench and box wrench for the mounting bolts

Mounting

1. Lay owl box face down on the ground and put post over it so top of post is 1 inch below roof of owl box.



Ensure the post is centered on barn owl box and squarely touching. Mark where holes will be drilled on post for the bolts. Remove post from owl box and pre-drill post for the bolts that will secure barn owl box to post. Then again lay post on top of back of owl box and put pencil or pen through post holes and mark on owl box where holes will be drilled through owl box, then drill owl box.

2. Optional: apply a stain or sealer to pole, this will help prevent moisture rot from the ground
3. If purchased, attach the Amador Predator guard (30" height) or flashing to the post: Apply it 1' above the ground.
4. Dig a hole 20" or more deep, ensure the walls of the hole are straight down, (because "v shape" holes will heave the post out during seasonal changes each year). Using post hole digger or an auger works best as they create a well-formed hole.
5. Prepare concrete mix
6. Put 1" of mixed concrete to bottom of the hole.
7. Insert the post and center it, then while holding the post straight pour the concrete mix into the hole. Use a level to be sure post is correctly vertical and hold post until concrete is sufficiently hard to stand alone - it will only take minutes. Then, apply an extra amount of concrete to the top of the hole around the post and form a slight taper (like a ½ mound) that will run water away from the pole's footing
8. Let the concrete set up, take a lunch break.
9. After setting, mount the barn owl box:
 1. Working height for mounting the box will be approximately 12 to 13', so a ladder or other means of reaching the top of the post and bolting the box on will be required.
 2. Note: If concrete has fully cured, then a straight ladder can be placed against the post.
 3. Hardware mounting order is: bolt head goes inside Barn Owl Box, with largest washer against bolt head. Remainder of bolt passes outside box and through post, then smaller washer and nut are attached. Tighten until wood on post depresses slightly.