Zippy Lawnz
Lawn Care Automation

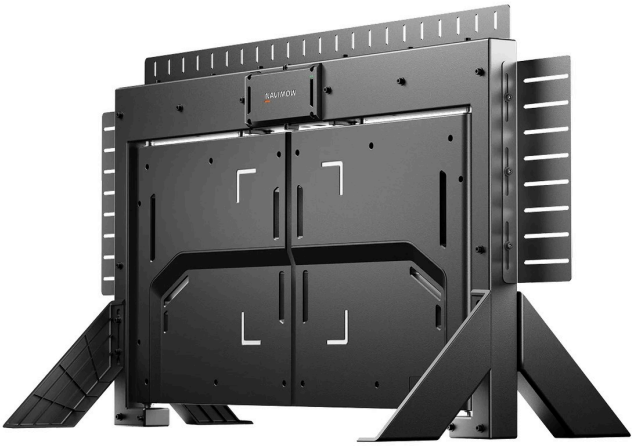
Robotic Mower Sales & Service
Authorized Segway Navimow dealer · PA, MD, DE, VA, CO

Segway Navimow MowGate Installation Guide

Wood frame, aluminum fence, and mesh fence methods · Rev. September 2026

The Navimow MowGate is a steel, battery-powered pet gate that unlocks automatically when your Navimow approaches and re-locks after it passes. It lets one mower cover a front yard and a fenced back yard without you opening anything. It runs on 4 D batteries (not included) for up to about 9 months and is IPX6 water-resistant.

Compatible mowers: X4, X3, i2 AWD, i2 LiDAR, i1, H2, and Terranox series. X4 (X430/X450) and Terranox mowers have the magnet built in; all others need the included magnet fitted (section 7). The H1 series is not supported.



Navimow MowGate, front side, with the tripod feet fitted.

A Navimow passing through a MowGate on a post-and-rail fence with welded wire. Zippy Lawnz install.

1. Dimensions and what's in the box

Measurement	Inches	Metric
Outer frame (W × D × H)	36.6 × 2.4 × 21.3	930 × 60 × 540 mm
Inner opening (W × H)	33.5 × 17.7	850 × 450 mm
Cutting template	37 × 22	93 × 54 cm
Weight	29.1 lb	16.9 kg

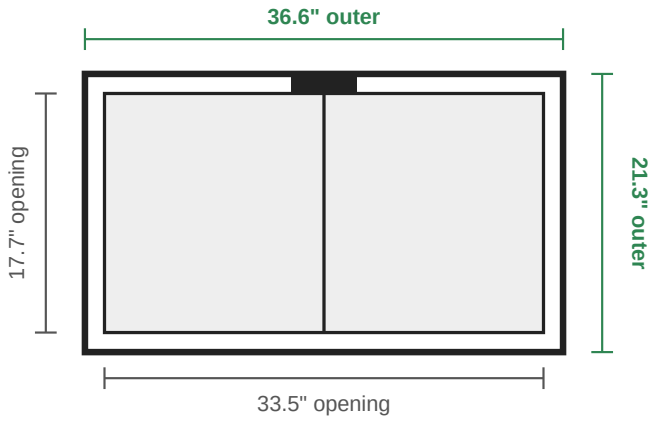


Figure 1. MowGate frame and opening, front view.

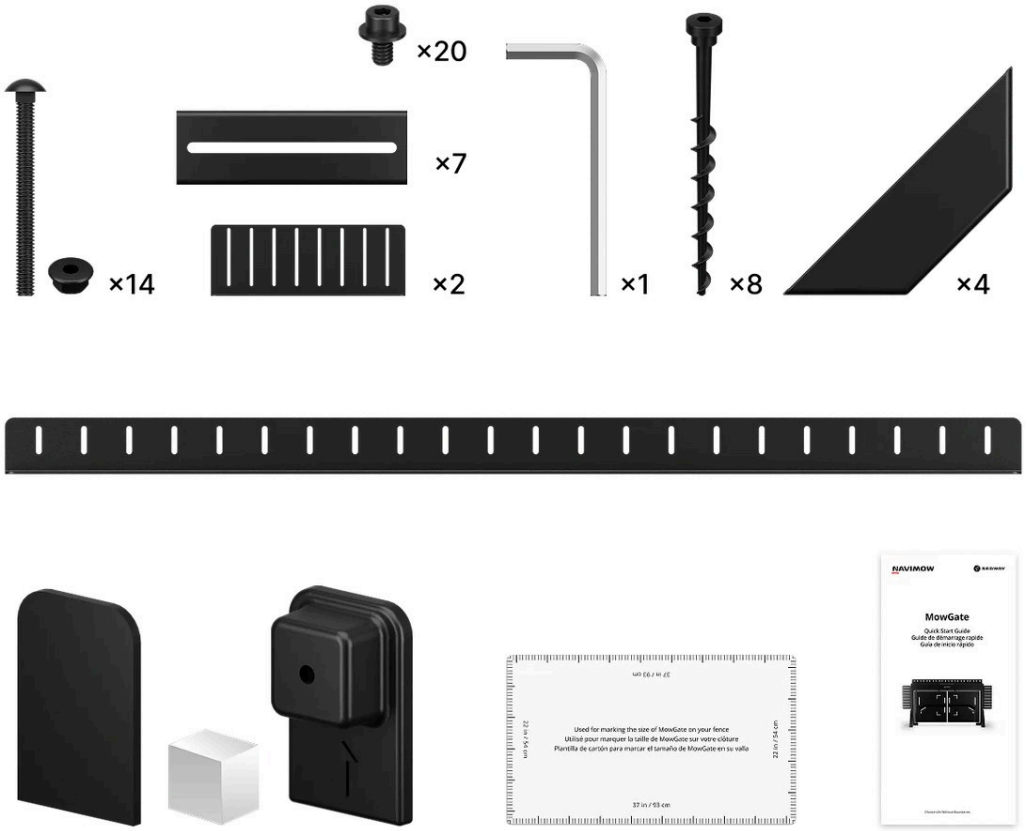


Figure 2. Contents of the MowGate box (batteries not included).

In the box: MowGate; 37 × 22 in cardboard cutting template; 14 long bolts with cap nuts (fence mounting); 20 short screws (frame assembly); 8 long wood screws; 7 slotted mounting brackets; 2 mesh clamp plates; 4 triangular supports; 1 Allen key; top frame rail; 2 plastic tripod feet; magnet and magnet holder; quick start guide.

2. Tools and materials

Tools

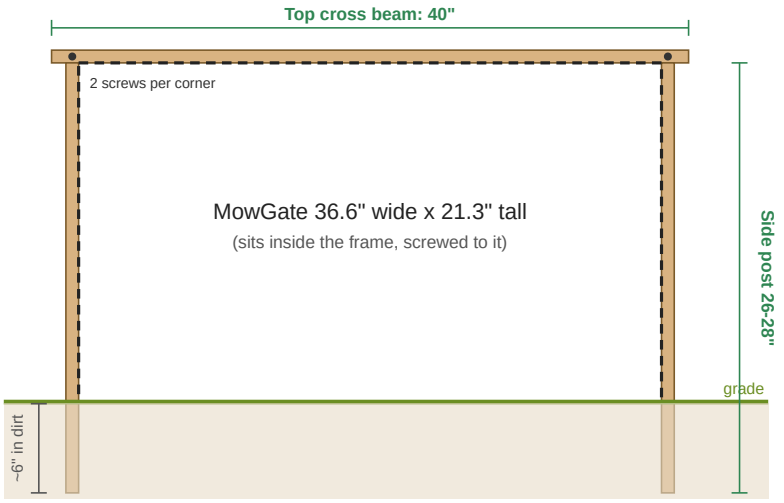
- Cordless drill/driver, Phillips bit, drill bit set
- Reciprocating saw or angle grinder (mesh, chain link, aluminum pickets)
- Circular saw or hand saw (fence boards and wood frame)
- 4-ft level and torpedo level
- Tape measure, pencil, speed square
- Post-hole digger or narrow shovel
- Work gloves and safety glasses
- 4 D-cell batteries

Zippy Lawnz wood frame (Method A)

One 8-ft length of 1×1 (actual 3/4 × 3/4 in) pressure-treated lumber from any home center covers a full frame with a little to spare, plus a box of 1-1/4 in exterior wood screws.

Piece	Qty	Cut length
Top cross beam	1	40 in
Side posts	2	26 to 28 in

About 6 in of each post goes below grade. A 27 to 28 in post puts the beam right at the 21.3 in gate height.



Drawn to scale. Beam overhangs each post by about 1".

Figure 3. Zippy Lawnz 1×1 wood frame: 40 in cross beam over two side posts, bottoms buried about 6 in.

3. Choosing the location

Pick a flat, level spot with at least 3 ft of open turf on both sides of the fence (our recommendation; Navimow only specifies a flat surface, not a slope). The mower needs room to line up straight, pass through, and do its 360° pet scan before the gate unlocks.

Good spots

- Beside an existing gate post or fence post you can screw or bolt into
- A straight run of fence at ground level with no step-down
- Clear sky view for RTK, or clear LiDAR references nearby

Avoid

- Slopes, dips, or any spot where the gate bottom sits above or below grade
- Loose gravel, pavers, or soft, uneven ground right at the gate; a short, flat, firm mulch strip is fine
- Spots behind a shed, AC unit, or hedge that block satellite signal

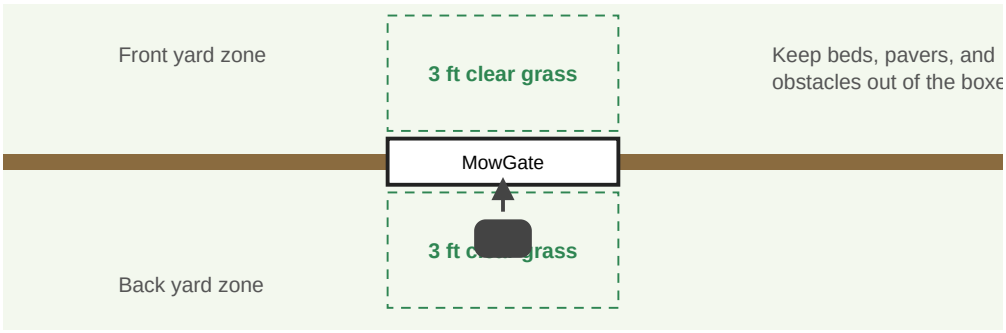


Figure 4. Plan view: keep about 3 ft of clear, mowable turf on each side of the gate.

Fence fit: Navimow rates the MowGate for wood panel, rod (aluminum or steel picket), and mesh (chain link) fences with rails over 4 in wide and 2 in high. You will cut a 37 × 22 in opening using the cardboard template; the gate frame overlaps the cut edges and the mounting hardware clamps or screws it to the fence.

4. Method A: Zippy Lawnz wood frame (wood fences and gates)

The wood frame is the method we use on most installs. A 1×1 frame around the MowGate gives you a solid, square surface to screw the gate into, lets you level the gate independently of a crooked fence, and adapts to almost any wood post, panel, or gate.

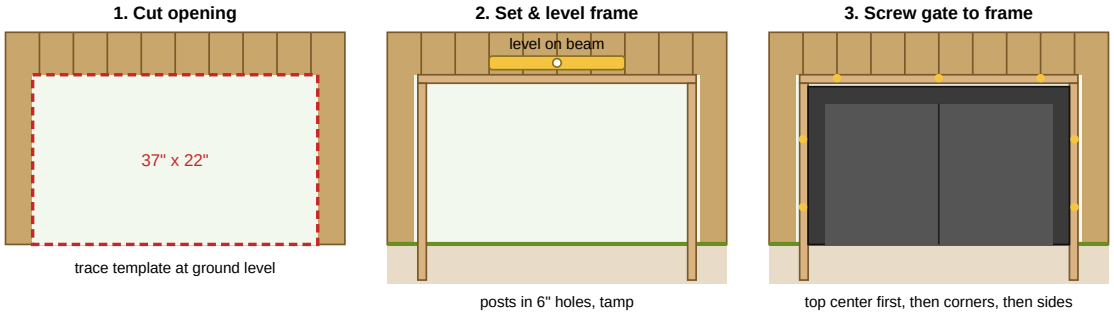


Figure 5. Method A in three stages. Yellow dots show the screw order into the frame.

1. **Mark and cut the opening.** Hold the cardboard template against the fence at ground level and trace it. Cut the 37 × 22 in opening with a circular or reciprocating saw. Remove any bottom rail inside the opening so the gate sits on bare ground.
2. **Build the frame.** Lay the two side posts on the ground 37 in apart (outside to outside, matching the gate width plus the 3/4 in side posts). Screw the 40 in cross beam across the top of both side posts with two 1-1/4 in exterior screws per corner. Check for square with a speed square.
3. **Dig the post holes.** At each side of the opening, dig a hole about 6 in deep and 2 to 3 in wide where the bottom of each side post will sit.
4. **Set the frame.** Stand the frame in the opening with the side posts in the holes. Push the posts down until the cross beam sits at roughly 21 to 22 in above grade, flush against the fence panel.
5. **Level the frame.** Put the 4-ft level on the cross beam. Push one post deeper or add dirt under the other until the beam reads level and the posts read plumb. Backfill and tamp around both posts.
6. **Attach the frame to the fence.** Drive 1-1/4 in screws through the side posts into the adjacent fence post, rail, or gate frame. Two screws per side is plenty.
7. **Set the MowGate in the frame.** With a helper, lift the MowGate (29 lb) into the opening. Rest it on the ground inside the frame with the battery lid facing the side you will access most.
8. **Level the gate.** Put the torpedo level on top of the gate. Shim under the low side with a scrap of wood or paver chip until level. The gate must be level or the latch will bind.
9. **Screw the gate to the frame.** Using the included screws and the holes in the gate's top and side frames, drive screws into the cross beam and side posts. Start top center, then top corners, then sides. Do not over-tighten into the 1×1.
10. **Test the swing.** With no batteries installed, push the gate panel by hand. It should swing freely and return without rubbing. If it rubs, back off the nearest screw and re-shim.

Tips from the field

- Pressure-treated 1×1 lasts longest in ground contact. Cedar works but rots faster at the buried end.
- If the ground is soft, drop a handful of gravel in each post hole before setting the frame.
- On a swinging wood gate, mount on the hinge side, not the latch side, so the MowGate does not add weight where the gate sags.
- Paint or stain the frame to match the fence before you mount the MowGate; it is much harder afterward.

5. Method B: bolting to aluminum or steel picket fence

Aluminum fences use the long bolts and cap nuts in the mounting kit instead of wood screws. The gate frame clamps to the fence rails and pickets through drilled holes.

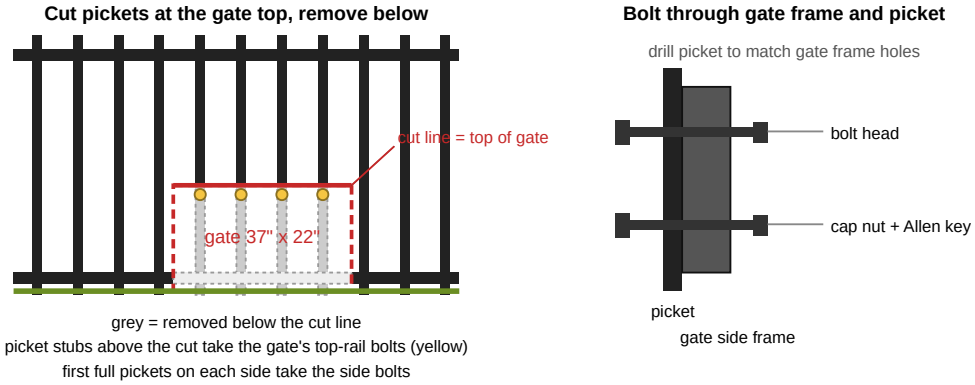


Figure 6. Method B: cut each picket at the top of the gate outline and remove only the lower portion. The picket ends left above the cut become the bolt points for the gate's top rail; the outer pickets take the side bolts.

Finished Method B install on a black aluminum fence. The pickets are cut at the top of the gate and the stubs are bolted to the gate's top rail; the outer pickets take the side brackets.

1. **Mark the opening.** Hold the template against the fence at ground level, centered between two posts if possible. Trace the outline.

2. **Cut the pickets.** Use a reciprocating saw with a metal blade or an angle grinder to cut each picket inside the outline at the top line of the template, not at the top rail. Remove only the lower portion of each picket. The stubs left hanging from the top rail end exactly at the top of the gate and become the bolt points for the gate's top frame. File any sharp edges.
3. **Cut or notch the bottom rail.** The MowGate needs to sit on the ground. Remove the section of bottom rail inside the opening. If the top rail falls inside the 22 in height, remove that section too.
4. **Fit the gate.** Lift the MowGate into the opening and level it with shims. Mark where the gate's top frame holes meet the picket stubs and where the side frame holes meet the first full pickets on each side.
5. **Drill the fence.** Pull the gate out. Drill the marked pickets and rails with a bit sized to the bolts. Aluminum drills easily; use a slow speed and a drop of oil.
6. **Bolt the gate on.** Set the gate back, push the bolts through the gate frame and fence, and tighten the cap nuts with the Allen key. Snug them evenly, top first, then sides. Aluminum crushes if you overtighten.
7. **Add the triangular supports if needed.** If there is no rigid picket or post within reach on one side, install a triangular support from the kit on that side and bolt it to the nearest rail.
8. **Test the swing** as in Method A.

> **Tips**
>
> - Pickets on most residential aluminum fences are 5/8 to 1 in square, spaced under 4 in apart. That usually puts a picket within an inch or two of the gate's side holes, but check before you cut.
> - If the gate lands between pickets with nothing to bolt to, install a short piece of 1×1 pressure-treated wood vertically behind the pickets, bolt that to the fence, and screw the gate to the wood (a hybrid of Methods A and B).
> - Touch up cut aluminum edges with matching spray paint so they do not show silver.

6. Method C: tripod feet and supports (mesh, chain link, flimsy fences)

The tripod mounting kit is Navimow's answer for fences that will not hold a screw or bolt on their own. The two plastic feet attach to the bottom corners of the gate and widen its footprint; the triangular supports brace the sides against the fence.

1. **Cut the opening** in the mesh with a reciprocating saw or angle grinder. Fold or trim sharp wire ends away from the opening.
2. **Attach the feet.** Fit one foot to each bottom corner of the MowGate using the tripod kit hardware. The feet should sit flat on the ground and point away from the fence on the side the mower approaches from most.
3. **Set and level the gate** in the opening. Scrape or fill under the feet until the gate reads level.
4. **Install the triangular supports** on both sides to tie the gate's side frame to the fence fabric or a nearby post.
5. **Tie the top.** Use the top frame holes with bolts or heavy zip ties through the mesh so the gate cannot rock.
6. **Test the swing.**

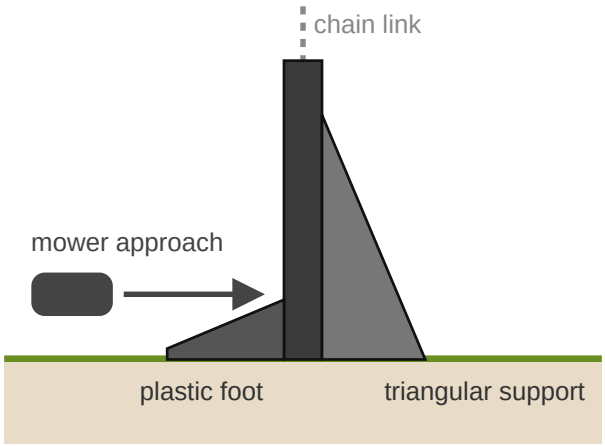


Figure 7. Method C, side view: foot on the approach side, triangular support behind.

Method C on a welded-wire fence: side brackets and triangular supports tie the gate to the mesh.

When to use it: chain link, welded wire, or any fence where nothing rigid sits within reach of the gate's side holes. On wood or aluminum fences, Methods A and B give a more solid result and the feet are optional.

> **Tip:** on chain link, the wood frame from Method A still works well. Set the frame in the ground, wire-tie it to the fence fabric, then screw the gate to the wood.

7. Batteries, magnet, and app setup

Install the batteries

1. Remove the lid on the upper part of the MowGate.
2. Insert 4 D batteries, matching the polarity marks.
3. Replace the lid and wait for the indicator light to turn green.

Map the MowGate channel

1. Map a mowing zone on each side of the fence first.
2. In the Navimow app: Home > Settings > Map management > Edit map > Add more.
3. Tap the MowGate icon.
4. Follow the prompts to drive the mower up to the MowGate, straight and centered. When the app shows *MowGate detected*, tap Continue and wait 2 to 3 minutes while the mower passes through.

Install the magnet on the mower

Mower	Magnet holder location	Arrow
i1, i2 AWD	Under the mower, behind the handle (adhesive)	Left
i2 LiDAR	Gap between front edge and battery slot	Down
X3	Under the mower near the front edge	Down
H2	Cubic slot under the board between the caster wheels (6 screws)	–
X4 (X430, X450)	Pre-installed, nothing to do	–
Terranox	Pre-installed, nothing to do	–

Power the mower off, set it upside down on a flat surface, and wipe the mounting area clean before sticking the holder.

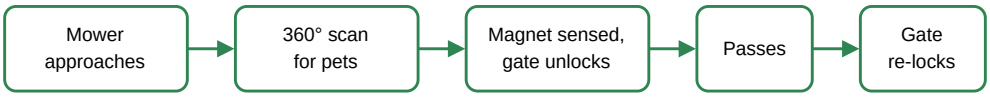
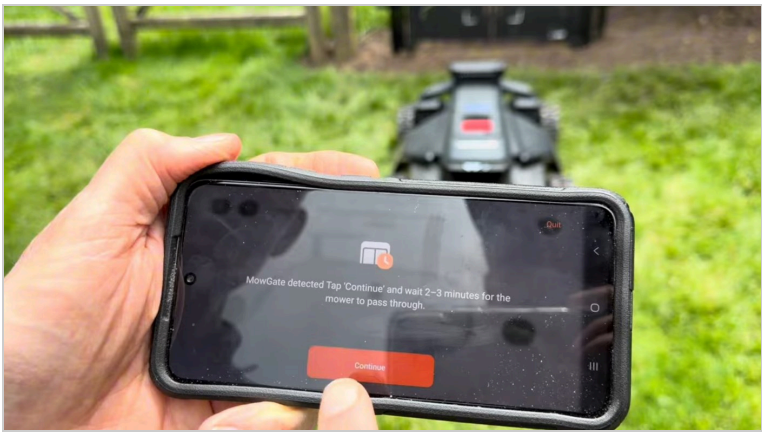


Figure 8. What a correct pass-through looks like. Watch for each step during your first test.



Channel setup in the Navimow app. When the app reports MowGate detected, tap Continue and allow 2 to 3 minutes for the mower to pass through.

Test it: send the mower from one zone to the other from the app. It should stop in front of the gate, spin to scan, the gate light should change, and the mower should pass through. Watch the gate re-lock, then

run one full mow of both zones before leaving the site.

8. Troubleshooting and maintenance

Symptom	Likely cause	Fix
Gate does not unlock as mower approaches	Magnet missing, wrong orientation, or no batteries	Check the magnet arrow direction for your model; confirm the gate light is green
Mower stops short and will not enter	Channel not mapped, or obstacle in the scan area	Re-record the channel in the app; clear pets, toys, and tall grass from 3 ft around the gate
Gate panel rubs or sticks	Frame out of level or over-tightened screws	Re-level with a torpedo level, back off screws, lubricate
Gate rocks or shifts after a few weeks	Post holes settled	Re-tamp the dirt; add gravel under the side posts
Light is yellow	Batteries at 50% or below	Plan to replace soon
Light is red	Batteries dead	Replace all 4 D batteries

Maintenance

- Replace all four D batteries together when the light turns red; expect roughly one set per mowing season.
- Brush off dirt with a soft brush and wipe mud with a damp towel, then dry.
- Lubricate the gate frame and hinge points with WD-40 gel or a similar lubricant at the start of each season.
- Check the wood frame each spring for rot at the buried ends and re-screw anything that has loosened.

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Questions or need a hand? Contact Zippy Lawnz at **zippylawnz.us**. We install MowGates across PA, MD, DE, VA, and CO.

Product photos and specifications: Segway Navimow MowGate user manual (Jan 2026) and product listings. MowGate and Navimow are trademarks of Segway.