

COMPARING SLIDE GATE DESIGNS

TRACKED, CANTILEVER & TELESCOPIC GATES

When it comes to securing a commercial or industrial site, sliding gates offer a smart combination of space efficiency, durability, and security. But not all sliding gates are created equal. At Summit Fencing, we work with three primary sliding gate systems -tracked sliding, cantilever sliding, and telescopic sliding - each suited to different site conditions and operational requirements.

Here's a breakdown to help you choose the right gate for your project:

1. TRACKED SLIDING GATES



How it works: A tracked sliding gate runs on wheels that glide along a ground-mounted track. It opens by sliding horizontally along a fixed path.

BEST FOR:

- Level surfaces
- Wide openings
- High-traffic industrial or commercial areas

PROS:

- Reliable and smooth operation
- Suitable for large, heavy gates
- Efficient use of space
- Cost-effective for most commercial sites

CONSIDERATIONS:

- Track must remain clean and clear
- Not ideal for uneven or debris-prone ground

2. CANTILEVER SLIDING GATES



How it works: Cantilever gates are suspended above the ground and slide using a counterbalance system—no track is required on the driveway.

BEST FOR:

- Sites with uneven surfaces or frequent debris
- Areas where ground tracks are impractical
- Commercial or industrial facilities with limited maintenance access

PROS:

- No track maintenance required
- Ideal for harsh or uneven environments
- Sleek, floating appearance

CONSIDERATIONS:

- Requires more space on the side (counterbalance is typically 40–50% of the opening width)
- Slightly more expensive due to structural demands

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3. TELESCOPIC SLIDING GATES



How it works: Telescopic gates use two or more panels that slide simultaneously, stacking together to reduce the space needed for the gate to open fully.

BEST FOR:

- Tight commercial spaces
- Driveways with limited lateral clearance
- Urban sites where space-saving is critical

PROS:

- Maximises usable driveway space
- Faster opening times
- Stylish, modern look

CONSIDERATIONS:

- Requires precise installation and alignment
- More complex mechanism = higher maintenance needs

WHICH GATE IS RIGHT FOR YOUR SITE?

Choosing the right sliding gate depends on several factors, including:

- Ground conditions
- Available lateral space
- Frequency of use
- Security needs
- Aesthetics and budget

At Summit Fencing, we assess your site and tailor gate systems to meet your operational, security, and compliance needs. Whether you need a durable tracked gate for heavy-duty access or a sleek telescopic gate for tight urban spaces—we've got the experience to guide your decision.