

Square-by-Square Budget Concrete Patio

Your foolproof plan for mixing, pouring, and curing a beautiful grid.

Calculate your materials and confidently pour a beautiful backyard patio without the stress. This manageable grid method guarantees a solid foundation and a perfect finish.

● Your Patio Dimensions

6 bags (80-lb)

per 4x4 foot cedar section

1.5 cubic yards

crushed gravel for a 10x12 footprint

4 in. on tamped gravel

base depth to prevent winter heave

1/8 in. per ft slope

pitch away from the foundation

One square at a time

pour method to eliminate panic

Protect your cedar grid

Apply a thick layer of painter's tape to the top edges of your cedar strips before pouring to prevent permanent concrete stains.



● The Checkerboard Pour Plan

- 1 Mix and alternate** Blend to a thick, moldable oatmeal consistency and pour alternate sections to keep wooden forms perfectly stable.
- 2 Screed and edge** Pull a two-by-four in a side-to-side sawing motion, then run a steel tool along the inside.
- 3 Barefoot broom finish** Lightly drag a fine-bristle push broom across the surface just as it loses its watery sheen.

● Find Your Concrete Mix

Find your row: **Your project application**

Your project application	Your pick	Why
Patio slabs and walkways	High-Strength (4,000 PSI)	45-60 minutes of working time
Setting heavy fence posts	Fast-Setting (4,000 PSI)	Stiffens in 15-20 minutes
Large unjointed pours	Crack-Resistant (4,000 PSI)	45-60 minute working window
Patching and leveling	Sand Mix (3,000 PSI)	30-45 minutes of working time

● Check Before You Pour

- Ensure the local forecast is overcast and between 50 and 70 degrees.
- Verify absolutely no heavy rain is expected within twenty-four hours.
- Install commercial landscape fabric under your base to block aggressive weeds.
- Measure pitch twice with a level string line before locking forms.
- Confirm your final slab height blends seamlessly with the existing lawn.

- **Tuck It In Wet, 7 Days**

- ☐ Lift plastic corners gently to inspect the underlying fabric.
- ☐ Test the burlap blanket daily to ensure it remains damp.
- ☐ Mist dry spots gently with a hose on light shower.
- ☐ Reseal plastic edges tightly with heavy stones to lock moisture.
- ☐ Wait a full 30 days before applying a penetrating sealer.

● Project Notes & Measurements

Enjoy those slow, relaxing weekend mornings on your beautiful new barefoot patio!