Backyard Fence Built to Last

Calculate your exact lumber needs and assemble a privacy fence engineered to resist rot and weather.

Building a barrier that lasts for decades starts below the soil and ends with protective top caps. Use this guide to plan your layout, clear the installation zone, and order the perfect amount of materials.



Key Measurements

1/3 height
Minimum depth for structural post holes

4 in
Crushed drainage gravel beneath wooden base

16-penny
Standard nail used as expansion spacer

3-4 weeks
Drying time before applying UV sealer

2-3 years
Timeframe to reapply protective wood sealant

Order Extra Lumber

Always order 10 percent more lumber than your calculated total to account for warped boards, bad cuts, and future repairs down the road.

Hidden Details to Last

1. **Wrap the Posts** Apply a bitumen post wrap exactly 1 inch above the soil to stop rot before it starts.
2. **Cap the Tops** Add a sloped weather cap to force rainwater off harmlessly before it soaks into the core.
3. **Build the Frame** Install a 3-rail backing frame to anchor heavy vertical boards evenly and prevent sun bowing.
4. **Elevate the Pickets** Maintain a strict 2in ground clearance to protect wood from standing water and string trimmers.
5. **Secure the Boards** Fasten pickets with ring-shank nails that grip internal wood fibers tightly so they never rattle.

Fence Materials Quantity Chart

8ft Sections	4x4 structural posts (8-foot)	2x4 backing rails (8-foot)	1x6 cedar pickets (6-foot)	Ring-shank fasteners	50 lb concrete mix
1	1 post	3 boards	17 pickets	102 nails	2 bags
5	5 post	15 boards	85 pickets	510 nails	10 bags
10	10 post	30 boards	170 pickets	1,020 nails	20 bags

Measure your total linear footage and divide by 8 to find your section count.

Inspiring Fence Styles

Find your row: **Your yard style**

Your yard style	Your pick	Why
Modern and sleek	Horizontal Black Slats	Instantly modernizes with full privacy.
Traditional garden	White Cottage Pickets	Timeless appeal framing blooming flowers.
Coastal feel	Gray Board-on-Board	Zero gap visibility with overlapping boards.
Organic kitchen garden	Woven Willow Wattle	Earthy, breathable natural branch barrier.
Urban aesthetic	Corrugated Metal Panels	Highly durable and low-maintenance.

Before You Dig

- ◯ Call local utility locators to mark underground lines.
- ◯ Check HOA guidelines for maximum height limits.
- ◯ Locate official property pins for exact legal boundaries.
- ◯ Clear old roots and large rocks along the perimeter.

Project Notes

Enjoy your beautiful, sturdy new fence that perfectly frames your outdoor living space!