36-Inch Z-Brace Garden Gate

Build and perfectly hang a lasting wooden entrance this weekend.

Cut, assemble, and hang a beautiful residential garden gate with this printable weekend schedule. Grab the cut list, hardware guide, and spacing measurements to start building today!



Key Measurements

36 in
Fits a standard loaded barrow

Upward to latch
Brace climbs from bottom hinge

2-in scrap blocks
Rest bottom rail for ground clearance

1/2 to 5/8 in
Latch gap; wider during dry droughts

Outside post
Mount gravity latch at top-rail height

1 in shorter
Cut horizontal rails vs actual opening

1-inch spacer
Consistent gaps between vertical privacy pickets

Measure Before You Cut

Never cut expensive lumber based on paper plans. Always measure the actual distance between your fully set posts at the top, middle, and bottom.

Weekend Build Sequence

1. **Saturday: Cut & Paint** Cut rails and prime all end grain. Roll thick exterior latex paint coats onto flat boards.
2. **Saturday: Frame & Brace** Assemble outer rectangle. Trace and cut diagonal brace, securing joints with waterproof exterior glue.
3. **Sunday: Attach Pickets** Space privacy pickets evenly. Fasten with exterior fasteners to prevent ugly black rust streaks.
4. **Sunday: Hang & Latch** Pre-drill pilot holes for heavy-duty T-hinges. Anchor strap lag screws directly into solid structural framing.

Post Sizing Guide

Find your row: **Gate Width**

Gate Width	Your pick	Why
Standard barrow width	4x4 lumber	24-inch depth, 2 concrete bags
Up to 48 inches	6x6 lumber	Deepest foundation, 3 concrete bags

Hardware & Materials List

- [ ] Cedar, redwood, or dried pine lumber
- [ ] 3-inch exterior screws for vertical stiles
- [ ] 1.5-inch coated deck screws or brads
- [ ] Heavy-duty T-hinges and thick lag screws
- [ ] Gravity latch and 1x2 wood strip
- [ ] Waterproof exterior wood glue and primer
- [ ] Crushed drainage gravel and fast-setting concrete

Site Checks

- ○ Find local frost line to ensure holes are six inches deeper.
- ○ Ensure gravel or paving extends fully through the planned opening.
- ○ Check frame diagonals match exactly to ensure it is perfectly square.
- ○ Center the spirit level bubble on the top rail before hanging.

Project Notes

Enjoy your beautiful new garden entrance and the smooth swing of a perfect build!