

Horizontal Deck Skirting Guide

Plan your board count, gaps, and hidden access panels.

Upgrading your backyard with modern skirting is easier when you have the exact measurements. Use this guide to calculate your materials and build seamless lift-off panels.

● Key Skirting Measurements

2 in.

clearance above gravel trench

3/8 in.

airflow gaps between horizontal rows

16 in.

on-center vertical stud layout

1/8 in.

tolerance gap at panel edges

2 screws

stainless trim fasteners per stud

Paint the Framing Black

Always use flat matte black exterior paint on the backer frame. Glossy finishes will catch the sun through the ventilation gaps and ruin the modern shadow effect.



● Board-Count & Gap Chart

Find your row: **Total Deck Height**

Total Deck Height	Your pick	Why
12 inches	2 (5.5") or 3 (3.5")	Requires 4 Z-clips
24 inches	4 (5.5") or 6 (3.5")	Requires 4 Z-clips
36 inches	6 (5.5") or 9 (3.5")	Requires 6 Z-clips

● Z-Clip Lift-Off Panel

- 1

Secure the base Install a hidden wooden cleat along the bottom framing to catch the lower lip.
- 2

Align the hardware Measure exactly and mount heavy-duty stainless clips directly to solid framing studs.
- 3

Add a finger pull Cut a discreet notch into the bottom edge using a sharp router bit for grip.
- 4

Leave swelling room Ensure a small tolerance gap around panel edges to accommodate seasonal wood movement.

● Site & Material Prep

- Measure drop from deck fascia to the lowest gravel grade point.
- Grade trench soil away from posts; compact angular crushed stone firmly.
- Brush heavy wood preservative onto all raw framing stud ends.
- Coat all cedar skirting sides with a penetrating UV-protective oil.
- Pre-drill every screw hole near board ends with a countersink bit.
- Cut skirting from matching decking material for a seamless waterfall effect.

● Project Notes

Enjoy your beautiful, modern deck upgrade that keeps moisture out and style in!