Picket Porch-Skirt Cut List

Build a modern horizontal cedar skirt using budget-friendly fence pickets.

Ditch the dated lattice and calculate exactly what you need for a crisp, straight-edged installation. Use these baseline estimates to build a perfectly spaced, warp-free foundation.



Key Measurements

2 in
clearance above pea gravel

1/4 in
gap from a carpenter pencil

2
trim screws per vertical stud

8 ft
standard bay width for calculations

Protect the End-Grain

Apply your first coat of UV-blocking penetrating oil to the freshly sawn ends before installation for the best long-term protection against moisture.

Ear-Trim Cut Sequence

1. **Remove the ears** Saw off the dog-eared tops to create crisp, straight-edged slats mimicking premium architectural cladding.
2. **Seal the ends** Treat the freshly cut wood immediately to fully protect the most vulnerable end-grain.
3. **Paint the frame black** Coat the vertical framing studs so supports vanish into deep, empty shadow voids.
4. **Space and secure** Wedge the flat pencil between slats and drive exterior-grade fasteners to prevent cupping.

Baseline Material Needs

Find your row: **Skirt Height**

Skirt Height	Your pick	Why
18 inches	7 boards, 3 studs	Requires 42 exterior trim screws
24 inches	9 boards, 3 studs	Requires 54 exterior trim screws
30 inches	11 boards, 4 studs	Requires 88 exterior trim screws

Site Checks & Prep

- [ ] Verify the ground below is permeable pea gravel, not solid concrete curbs.
- [ ] Confirm the strict air gap above grade to prevent rot and moisture.
- [ ] Leave clearance for the ground to expand upward during winter frost heave.
- [ ] Plan a flush access hatch secured with a simple wooden turn-button.

Project Notes

Enjoy your beautiful, modern porch skirt and the upgraded curb appeal it brings!