

Ofrenda Build Sheet

Your tier-by-tier placement guide and Oct 28–Nov 2 schedule.

Assemble a beautiful, traditional three-tier ofrenda using standard household furniture. This structured approach keeps your setup completely stress-free and glowing perfectly.

● Key Elements & Measurements

2 wooden crates

Under the cloth for stable tiers

10-inch deep

Steps for each distinct offering level

3-4 cups

Petal path from door to base

Max 2 days

Before setup to buy fresh flowers

Exactly 1/4 inch

Trim wicks to prevent flaring

Min 18 inches

Clearance above flame for papel picado

*Weigh down the crates
Place heavy books or bricks directly inside the empty wooden crates before draping your cloth to prevent them from shifting unexpectedly.*



● Oct 28–Nov 2 Setup Schedule

- 1 Oct 28: Prep Basics** Gather wooden crates, iron the white cloth, and order fresh marigolds early.
- 2 Oct 29–30: Supplies** Verify heavy embroidery floss, pillar candles, and print this detailed build sheet.
- 3 Oct 31: Foundation** Stack crates, drape cloth smoothly, and arrange non-perishable mementos and silver framed photos.
- 4 Nov 1–2: Final Glow** String marigolds, lay the petal path, add fresh food, water, and safely light candles.

● Tier-by-Tier Placement Checklist

- ☐ Top: Framed photos flanked by tall white pillar candles.
- ☐ Top edge: Floss-strung marigolds draped along the front.
- ☐ Middle: Name iced on the skull and wooden toys.
- ☐ Middle: Mandarin oranges, favorite candies, and personal mementos.
- ☐ Bottom center: Water for the journey and pan de muerto.
- ☐ Bottom corners: Coarse sea salt to purify the space.
- ☐ Floor: Copal incense and petal path from door.

● Room & Safety Checks

- ☐ Find a quiet, low-traffic corner against a blank wall.
- ☐ Ensure floor space allows a clear petal path from the entrance.
- ☐ Keep delicate paper decorations safely away from drafts and heating vents.
- ☐ Verify heat-resistant coasters fit completely under all thick pillar candles.

● Adapting to Your Space

Find your row: **Your specific situation**

Your specific situation	Your pick	Why
No fresh marigolds	Calendula or chrysanthemums	Acceptable brightly colored visual substitutes
No sugar skulls locally	Painted wooden skull cutouts	Achieves a similarly joyful personalized effect
Tight floor space	Floating wall shelves	Use miniature skulls and battery tealights
Covered outdoor patio	Weathered wooden benches	Use heavy hurricane lanterns for wind

● Honoree Notes & Memories

May your beautiful ofrenda guide your loved ones home for a joyful reunion.