Outdoor Kitchen Bar Build Sheet

Measurements and structural details for your split-level patio island

Building a durable two-level outdoor kitchen means getting the hidden structural details exactly right. Use this guide to lock in every crucial measurement, frame spec, and clearance.



Key Island Clearances

36 in Prep counter height	**42 in** Bar seating height
15 in Min. ledge overhang depth	**1/2 in** Steel flat bars inside
24 in Stools on center	**16 in** Vertical stud spacing

Drip groove under lip

Ask your stone fabricator to cut a hidden groove behind the front edge. It forces rainwater to drop cleanly, preventing dirty runoff from staining the face below.

The Structural Sequence

1. **Pour a solid footing** Dig a trench six inches deep, add crushed drainage gravel, and screed high-strength concrete perfectly level.
2. **Frame the metal skeleton** Use galvanized steel, #8 exterior-grade ceramic-coated screws, and leave small weep holes for drainage.
3. **Cement board on steel** Stagger vertical seams, drive specialized screws completely flush, and embed alkali-resistant mesh tape into exterior thinset.
4. **Apply the stone base** Trowel a thick scratch coat of polymer-modified mortar and rake deep horizontal grooves to grip veneer.

Specs For Your Components

Find your row: **Your specific items**

Your specific items	Your pick	Why
Built-in grill	At least 12 in clearance	Safe staging for hot tools
Access doors	Check manufacturer cutouts	Standardize for future plumbing access
Steel flat bar spacing	Consult structural specs	Safely supports heavy stone weight
Bar stool height	Size for raised counters	Ensure comfortable adult knee clearance

Before You Finish

- [ ] Mark seating zones to tuck outdoor-rated outlets high under the lip.
- [ ] Apply penetrating stone sealer to the unpolished underside of the overhang.
- [ ] Ensure heavy-duty countersunk machine screws sit flush on the steel spine.
- [ ] Verify concrete wedge anchors secure the continuous perimeter base tracks.
- [ ] Check that steel corner gussets reinforce every 90-degree turn.

Project Notes

Enjoy your beautiful new outdoor kitchen—here is to many relaxed summer barbecues!