Patio Privacy Screen

Build a freestanding cedar planter screen that hides its feet.

Measure your custom sightline and choose the right anchors for your patio. Use this build sheet to construct a beautiful cedar screen with a hidden structural base.



Key Measurements

6 ft
Target screen height (check local codes)

72 in
Post spacing before pouring wet concrete

24 in
Minimum depth for in-ground concrete footings

½ in
Ply spacer gaps for cedar slats

3 in
Coarse drainage gravel in planter base

4 ft
Level length to plumb slanted posts

Set Your Custom Sightline

1. **Position your chair** Place your primary lounge chair exactly where it will live on the patio.
2. **Relax and look** Sit back in your normal, relaxed posture and look toward the neighbor's yard.
3. **Sit, then tape top** Have a helper slide a piece of blue tape up the post until it blocks your view.
4. **Mark the exact spot** Mark that exact spot with a pencil to establish your top cedar slat height.
5. **Measure to the floor** Measure from the patio floor to your mark to finalize your custom screen height.

Flawless Hidden Fasteners

Screwed from the back through a vertical batten, the front face stays perfectly smooth. Use a countersink bit so screw heads sit flush, preventing sharp edges from catching clothing.

Choose Your Post Anchors

Find your row: **Your foundation type**

Your foundation type	Your pick	Why
Existing concrete patio slab	Proper masonry anchors and washers	Standard wood screws fail in concrete
Yard or dirt surface	In-ground concrete footings	Counters massive wind load during storms

Planter-Screen Build Sheet

- [ ] Clear cedar for visible slats and faces
- [ ] Pressure treated lumber for hidden internal supports
- [ ] Heavy-duty bases (planter hides anchors completely)
- [ ] Polymer-coated or stainless exterior screws
- [ ] Waterproof exterior wood glue and UV-blocking oil
- [ ] Heavy-duty landscape fabric and drainage gravel
- [ ] Dense potting soil and trailing plants

Check Before You Build

- Verify if municipality requires an engineer's review or permit for 6-foot screens.
- Check local homeowner's association guidelines for maximum allowable fence heights.
- Verify the required setback distances from your property line before digging.
- Confirm whether freestanding planter structures are exempt from standard fencing permits.
- Measure opposite corners until diagonals match exactly for a square base.

Project Notes

Enjoy your beautifully hidden foundation and the peaceful privacy of your new patio oasis!