

# Rustic Porch Budget Sourcing Checklist

Everything you need to plan, source, and build your weekend patio retreat.

Transform your outdoor space this weekend without second-guessing your cart. Use this guide to source materials and confidently size your new rustic porch setup.

## ● Key Project Specs

**1/4 in/ft**

standard deck slope to offset

**2700K**

solar bulbs for warm glow

**1 pad:1 qt**

steel wool to vinegar ratio

**15-gallon**

feed tub size (check load)

### *Test Your Weathered Finish*

*Pine lacks tannins; pre-treat with strong tea. Test on scrap wood. If too dark, dilute 1:1 with water.*



## ● Weekend Project Flow

- 1 Prep Wood** Sand edges with 80-grit before applying treatments.
- 2 Age & Seal** Apply iron acetate, dry, and seal with polyurethane.
- 3 Build Planter** Drill 1/2-inch drainage holes in the tub bottom.
- 4 Hang Lights** Install a tensioned guide wire to prevent sagging.

● Size Your Seating Footprint

Find your row: **Porch Depth (Plan for traffic)**

| Porch Depth (Plan for traffic) | Your pick                                         | Why                                                                                          |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 8 feet                         | 4x6 ft rug, 48-in bench (typical starting point)  | Accounts for 16-24 in bench depth and a 36-in minimum traffic path or door swing             |
| 10 feet                        | 5x8 ft rug, 60-in bench (typical starting point)  | Accounts for 16-24 in bench depth, leaving room for a 36-in traffic path and extra furniture |
| 12 feet                        | 6x9 ft rug, 72-in bench (typical starting point)  | Accounts for 16-24 in bench depth, allowing a 36-in traffic path and spacious layout         |
| 14 feet                        | 8x10 ft rug, 84-in bench (typical starting point) | Accounts for 16-24 in bench depth, supporting multiple 36-in traffic paths or seating zones  |

● Verify Before You Build

- ☐ Tape out rug and bench dimensions directly on your deck boards.
- ☐ Position the heavy feed tub in its final corner before filling.
- ☐ Check hardware packaging to ensure leveling feet support heavy solid lumber.
- ☐ Verify solar panels face the equator (true south in Northern Hemisphere) for optimal charging.

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- ☐ Hose-off poly rug to protect deck boards
- ☐ Pressure-treated or sealed pine posts for bench frame
- ☐ Exterior lag screws and wood-boring bit
- ☐ Heavy-duty hidden leveling feet
- ☐ Steel wool, white vinegar, black tea, and filters
- ☐ Orbital sander and exterior matte polyurethane
- ☐ Agricultural feed tub and drainage gravel
- ☐ Solar string lights and steel guide wire

● Project Notes & Measurements

Enjoy your beautifully styled, budget-friendly rustic porch retreat!