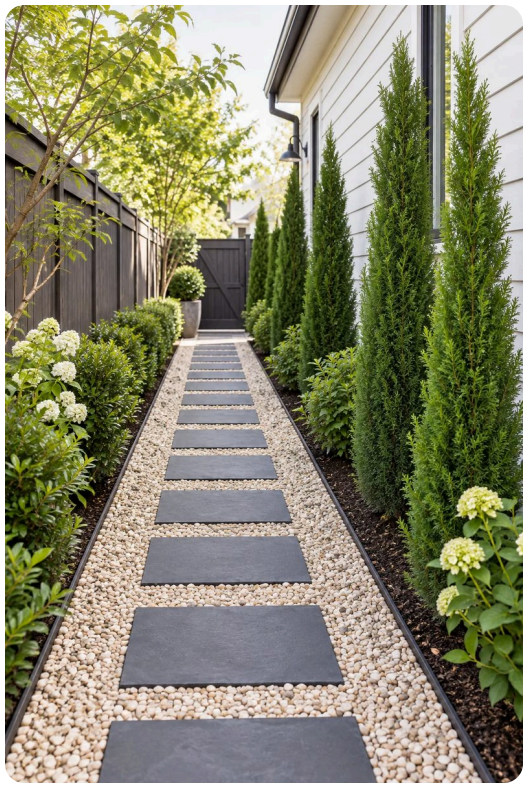
Weekend Side Yard Landscaping

Your material calculator and step-by-step installation checklist.

Upgrade that neglected narrow side yard this weekend. Build a clean, modern path with perfectly spaced stepping stones and fresh gravel.



Key Landscaping Measurements

18 inches
Max mature spread for chosen shrubs

2 inches
Planned gravel layer depth

3 inches
Excavated flat trench base depth

6 inches
Minimum overlap for fabric seams

Every 3 feet
Landscape staple pinning spacing

Every 2 feet
Steel edging spike spacing

1/2 inch
Edging height above gravel line

Twice as wide
Planting holes vs original nursery pots

Custom stride spacing

Measure the distance between your heels during a normal step. Use that exact measurement from the center of one stone to the next for an effortless, natural walkway.

Required Drainage Slope

Find your row: **Distance from house**

Distance from house	Your pick	Why
1 foot	1/4 inch drop	Prevents rainwater pooling against siding
3 feet	3/4 inch drop	Protects home foundation from damage
5 feet	1.25 inches drop	Ensures proper runoff away from house

Material Calculator Checks

- ○ Measure total path length and width in feet.
- ○ Multiply length by width for total fabric square footage.
- ○ Multiply square footage by planned depth for cubic yards.
- ○ Measure linear border length to count steel edging sections.
- ○ Evaluate site for hidden drainage issues or buried utility lines.

Step-by-Step Installation

1. **Excavate and grade** Dig out the marked area, remove turf, and slope the soil away from the foundation.
2. **Compact and protect** Tamp the graded dirt firmly, then lay and pin the protective fabric, running it up sides.
3. **Install the borders** Position metal strips along the edges, anchoring them flush to contain the stones neatly.
4. **Fill and level** Pour the smooth stones evenly across the base using a heavy steel bow rake.
5. **Set the stones** Test your walking layout, then wiggle each heavy paver firmly into the bed until perfectly flush.

Weekend Materials Checklist

- ☐ Washed pea gravel for a clean, silt-free surface
- ☐ Heavy-duty woven weed barrier to block deep roots
- ☐ No-dig steel edging with locking tabs and spikes
- ☐ Heavy, dark concrete or natural slate stepping stones
- ☐ Tall, narrow evergreen shrubs
- ☐ Dark hardwood mulch to retain crucial moisture
- ☐ Bronze low-voltage landscape path lights

Project Notes

Spend five minutes a month with a leaf rake to keep your path pristine!