

Tall-Planter Fill & Swap Sheet

Build a lush courtyard look without wasting bags of expensive potting soil.

Easily arrange a tight patio layout and properly fill oversized planters with this guide. You get all the architectural drama without any of the heavy lifting.

● Key Patio Dimensions

36 in

to walk through the central layout

12 in

reclaimed by armless bistro seating

4 holes

drilled through the bottom pan

1 in bit

masonry or metal tool for drainage

Upturned pots

taped inside to fill empty void

Grower pot

drop-in sits level with rim

Fence clips

secure string lights along top rail

Lift-lid bench

storage saves valuable square footage



Prevent Soil Washout

Drape a single sheet of permeable landscape fabric over your top nursery container to keep your expensive potting mix from washing down into the empty base.

● Planter Assembly Sequence

- 1 Measure and Subtract** Check internal planter height and subtract required root depth to find your target void size.
- 2 Build the Core** Stack empty plastic containers to meet the difference and bind them securely with heavy-duty tape.
- 3 Anchor the Base** Pour heavy gravel at the very bottom to anchor the vessel and improve deep drainage.
- 4 Set the Drop-In** Place sturdy blocks on the filler so your tree sits perfectly flush with the rim.
- 5 Hide the Edges** Tuck preserved moss or decorative river rock around the trunk to elevate the final presentation.

● Soil Depth & Volume Needs

Find your row: **Your plant type**

Your plant type	Your pick	Why
Trailing Annuals (18 in width)	6 to 8 in depth	0.5 cubic feet soil bag
Perennial Herbs (20 in width)	8 to 10 in depth	1.0 cubic feet soil bag
Small Shrubs (24 in width)	10 to 12 in depth	1.5 cubic feet soil bag
Olive Trees (30 in width)	12 to 14 in depth	2.0 cubic feet soil bag

● Planter Assembly Shopping List

- ☐ Empty plastic nursery pots for stacking
- ☐ Heavy-duty exterior duct tape
- ☐ Permeable woven landscape fabric
- ☐ Sturdy bricks or pressure-treated wood blocks
- ☐ Heavy gravel for the base layer
- ☐ High-quality organic potting mix and reserve bag
- ☐ Preserved Spanish moss or decorative river rock
- ☐ Thick gardening gloves for handling sharp edges

● Patio Setup Checks

- Confirm comfortable passage clearance for your specific daily traffic flow.
- Check that armless chairs tuck completely under your table rim.
- Line bench cavity with marine vinyl and seal internal corner joints.
- Wear safety glasses and verify adequate water escape routes before filling.
- Opt for shatterproof LED polycarbonate bulbs to prevent dangerous glass shards.

● My Planter Dimensions

Enjoy your lush, beautiful patio—without the back-breaking heavy lifting!