Compact Bar Schematic

Master the hidden mechanics of your small pool bar

Planning a compact outdoor kitchen means fitting full-sized utility into a tight footprint. Use these precise dimensions and mechanical layouts to build a durable, code-compliant outdoor bar.



Key Clearances

12 in
Overhang for standard knee clearance

36 in
Clearance needed behind guest stools

1/4 in
Drain pitch per horizontal foot

1/8 in
Gap between exterior cabinet slats

Test Before You Glue

Dry-fit all PVC drain connections and test the slope with a torpedo level before applying any purple primer or cement.

Supporting Extended Counters

1. **Measure the Counter** Measure the total length of your overhanging countertop in inches.
2. **Calculate the Corbels** Divide the length by 24 to find the required number of corbels.
3. **Mark the Framing** Mark your cabinet framing at those exact intervals to locate the mounting studs.
4. **Secure the Brackets** Secure heavy-duty steel brackets directly into the vertical framing members.

Choosing Edge Sealant

Find your row: **Your Bar Location**

Your Bar Location	Your pick	Why
High-splash zones near pools	Marine Epoxy	Maximum water protection
Covered patio bars	Exterior Polyurethane	Strong weather resistance
Sealing cabinet joints	Silicone Caulk	Flexible joint sealing

Site & Appliance Checks

- ○ Verify exact rough opening dimensions from your specific appliance manufacturer.
- ○ Confirm a perfectly flat 6-by-4-foot area for the base cabinet.
- ○ Measure trenching route to your nearest dedicated 20-amp exterior circuit.
- ○ Dig the gravel-filled dry well at least 3 feet deep.
- ○ Verify exterior electrical covers are stamped with a wet location rating.

The Hidden Mechanics

- ☐ Front-breathing fridge vents heat safely into open air.
- ☐ Marine plywood core prevents sub-top warping in high humidity.
- ☐ In-use GFCI cover on cabinet side sheds splashed water.
- ☐ Air gap waste drain prevents patio water backing up.
- ☐ Apply 2 coats of marine epoxy to raw plywood edges.
- ☐ Sink heavy-duty wedge anchors through the bottom wall plates.

Project Notes

Enjoy mixing drinks at your perfectly engineered backyard oasis!