Under-Deck Plant & Stone Sheet

Plan your drainage, locking gravel lounge, and dry-shade border.

Turn the space beneath your raised deck into a stunning, dry retreat. Use this guide to grade the area, order locking gravel, and plant a thriving border.



Key Measurements

3 inches
crushed stone depth for floor

1/4 inch
gutter pitch per ten feet

2 inches
mulch depth over amended soil

1 year
run drip line under mulch

Read the Drip Line

Trace the exact line in the dirt during a heavy rainstorm. This natural boundary dictates where your dry lounge ends and the watered garden begins.

Building Your Dry Lounge

1. **Catch the water** Apply butyl tape and fit sloped troughs to a gutter every joist bay.
2. **Prep the subgrade** Rake dirt, tamp firmly, and roll out a commercial non-woven weed barrier.
3. **Lay the floor** Spread crushed stone and compact it. Angular gravel locks together under heavy furniture.
4. **Protect the timber** Never bury wood. A coarse stone gravel collar at posts keeps structural timber dry.

Sizing Your Perimeter Gutter

Find your row: **Deck Area**

Deck Area	Your pick	Why
Under 200 sq ft	5-in gutter, 2x3 downspout	Handles standard runoff smoothly
200 - 500 sq ft	5-in gutter, 3x4 downspout	Accommodates moderate water volume
Over 500 sq ft	6-in gutter, 3x4 downspout	Prevents heavy overflow

Under-Deck Planting Zones

Find your row: **Distance from edge**

Distance from edge	Your pick	Why
Just inside drip line	Epimedium: dry shade	Survives hostile, dry environment
Directly beneath edge	Drip-band transition bed	Catches torrential roof runoff
Outside deck footprint	Standard garden plants	Receives natural rain and light

Slope & Site Checkpoints

- [ ] Confirm a 6 in fall over 10 ft of soil.
- [ ] Verify downspouts discharge well beyond the lounge footprint.
- [ ] Check that raw earth is tamped solid without depressions.
- [ ] Ensure rigid perimeter edging is installed to contain stone.
- [ ] Trace the drip line during rain before digging beds.

Project Notes & Measurements

Grab your materials, check your grading, and enjoy your new shaded outdoor retreat!