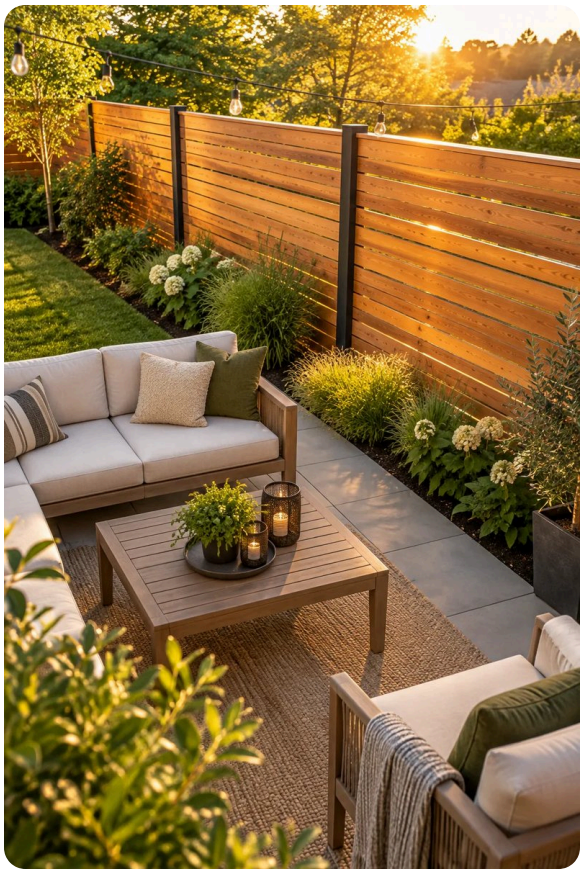
Wood Fence Lumber & Spacing

Your cheat sheet for a stunning, long-lasting custom boundary

Calculate your materials perfectly and space your horizontal boards for a beautiful upgrade. This guide ensures your sleek new design stays structurally sound through heavy storms.



Materials At A Glance

8 ft on center
Black steel 4x4 posts spacing

11 & 10 boards
Alternating 1x4 & 1x6 cedar boards

1/2 inch
Gap between boards for seasonal expansion

1 board
Center anti-bow brace per panel

2 screws
2-inch exterior screws per intersection

+ 10 percent
Extra lumber for knots and cuts

Seal Before Assembly

Apply your first coat of clear UV cedar stain to all sides before installation to completely seal the hidden end grains from creeping moisture.

Adapting to Your Yard

Find your row: **Site condition**

Site condition	Your pick	Why
Heavy clay soil	Slope the concrete crown	Sheds rainwater one inch above soil
Sloped ground	Step down eight-foot sections	Keeps architectural gaps looking perfectly uniform
Standard vertical layout	Install three backer rails	Provides adequate nailing surfaces for boards
Heavy custom gate	Bolt steel strap hinges	Prevents sagging and dragging across pathways

Setting Your Posts Safely

1. **Dig and Prep Base** Dig below your local frost line and add a six-inch crushed gravel base.
2. **Check for Perfect Plumb** Verify plumb on two adjacent sides before the wet concrete begins to set.
3. **Cure Concrete Completely** Allow footings to cure for forty-eight hours before attaching any heavy wood.

Check Before You Build

- [ ] Verify sprinkler heads never spray directly onto the metal post surfaces.
- [ ] Reserve the absolute straightest boards for eye-level middle sections.
- [ ] Pre-drill every hole with a countersink bit to prevent wood splitting.
- [ ] Keep a four-foot magnetic level attached to your top board continuously.
- [ ] Coat fresh trimmed ends with clear exterior sealer immediately after cutting.

Project Notes & Measurements

Enjoy your stunning new backyard upgrade and its beautiful, long-lasting modern design!