

Skill Level: INTERMEDIATE Give these projects a try if you're a confident DIYer with a good working knowledge of a variety of tools. They can take a day or more to complete. If you can build a birdhouse or install a ceiling fan, your skill level is probably appropriate.

✓ MATERIALS

- 35" wide x 21" high Steel Fire Pit with Screen Cover and Poker
- 64 9" Countryside Wall (or equivalent) Blocks—available in different colors
 - **TIP:** The example fire pit is approximately 50" wide. Modify materials list for a larger or smaller fire ring. Ask a Lowe's associate for help.
- Work Gloves—optional; for handling materials

A great way to enjoy an evening is to relax by an open fire—and a fire pit can make it even nicer. They are great for outdoor entertaining and when the weather starts to cool off, you can still enjoy the outdoors. Here are easy-to-follow instructions for building a patio fire pit by yourself or with your family.



PREPARATION

Patio fire pits are available in kits or as separate components. Some are steel bowls or frames that you can move around the yard. Others are built in place with concrete blocks or similar non-combustible materials. This project consists of a steel fire bowl surrounded by concrete blocks. Before you begin construction:



- 01** Check with any local ordinances or homeowner association guidelines to see if fire pits are permitted. Some regulations do not allow them while others require that they be located at least a specific distance away from structures or property lines (typically 20'). It is for your safety and that of your neighbors that these regulations are written and enforced.
- 02** Select a convenient—and safe—location for the fire pit. Make sure that it is in an open area away from the house, low tree limbs or anything else that could catch fire. If possible, locate it near your woodpile for convenience.
- 03** Place a small flag at the selected location and check it periodically over a few days to determine the prevailing wind direction. You don't want smoke blowing in your windows or those of your neighbors.

IMPORTANT

Before you build a patio fire pit, make sure that it will be installed in a fire-safe location, away from combustible structures and plants. If you need to do any digging, call 811 first to be connected with your local utility companies. They will help you identify any underground utility lines that may be damaged by digging tools. If you have any questions along the way, discuss the project with a Lowe's associate or call a professional for help.

BUILDING THE FIRE PIT

The following procedures are for installing a basic fire pit ring of concrete blocks surrounding a steel fire pit bowl with cover. The same process can be used to install other fire pits with bricks or other materials, with or without a fire pit bowl. Removable fire pit bowls make cleaning easier. The optional fire pit cover makes them safer by retaining hot coals in the pit. You also should have a metal poker to move and adjust wood in the pit for an optimum fire.

- **CAUTION:** Fire pits should be installed on concrete patios, pavers (flat masonry on the ground) or bare dirt. Fire pits should not be installed directly on wood decks or other combustible materials. If using a fire pit bowl on a wood deck, make sure a fireproof barrier, such as a non-combustible fireplace mat, is installed below and around the bowl.
- If you'd like to install a paver patio for your fire pit, first review the *How to Install a Patio* video and printable instructions available at [Lowe's.com/Videos](https://www.lowes.com/Videos). Constructing a patio base consists of digging up the area, adding a gravel base and a layer of sand, then installing the blocks.



01 Gather the materials and tools you will need for this job. Once gathered, construction of the fire pit should only take an hour or two at the most.

- **TIP:** These instructions are for a dry-fit masonry ring, meaning that no mortar is required between the blocks. If preferred, you may build the fire pit ring using mortar. Ask a Lowe's associate for help in choosing and using appropriate mortar for the selected blocks.



02 Assemble the fire pit screen cover and place it on the patio to mark the center of the fire pit. This step will help you determine the size of the fire pit ring.

03 Place the first layer of block around the cover, making sure all the joints between blocks are tight. The example project has 16 blocks in each layer. Mortar is not used.



04 Remove the cover and set it aside for now.

05 Install the second layer of blocks on top of the completed first layer, staggering the joints between the blocks to strengthen the wall.

06 Install the third, then the fourth layer of blocks, staggering the joints.

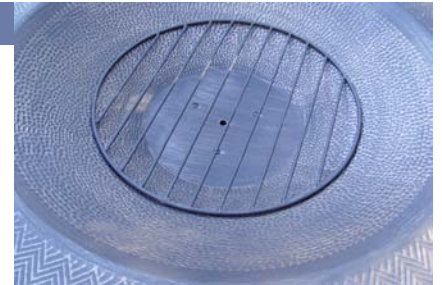


BUILDING THE FIRE PIT (cont.)

07 Install the fire pit tray—without the legs—in the ring.

- **TIP:** If you choose not to install a steel fire pit bowl, use fireproof blocks to line the inside of the ring or construct the ring with fireproof blocks.

08 Install the fire pit grate.



BUILDING A FIRE

01 Place a starter log (available at Lowe's) on the fire pit grate.

02 Stack a few logs over the starter log.

03 Light the starter log.

04 Once the fire is steadily burning, cover the fire pit with the screen lid.

- **TIP:** Keep a bucket of water or fire extinguisher nearby.
- **TIP:** Make sure you clean out fire pit ashes regularly. You can mix the cool, extinguished ashes with compost for your garden beds.

You now can look forward to many tranquil evenings by an enjoyable—and safe—outdoor fire pit. If you like this project, check out the other popular improvement projects for your home, available at [Lowe's.com/Videos](https://www.lowes.com/Videos).



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