

## Introduction

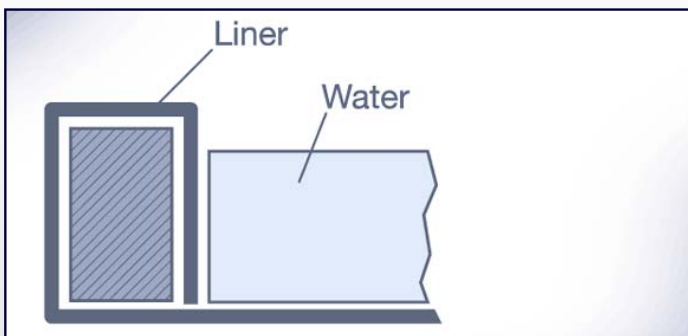
If you've ever built a backyard rink before you know how much fun it brings to your family and friends. And if you've never built a rink, there's no better time to start. We've created step-by-step instructions, illustrations, lists of materials and handy rink FAQ to help make the process as easy as it is rewarding. In fact, many professional players say that they got their first introduction to hockey while playing in the backyard with a parent or sibling. So pick up your tools, grab your hose, and get building.

## Step One: Design Your Rink



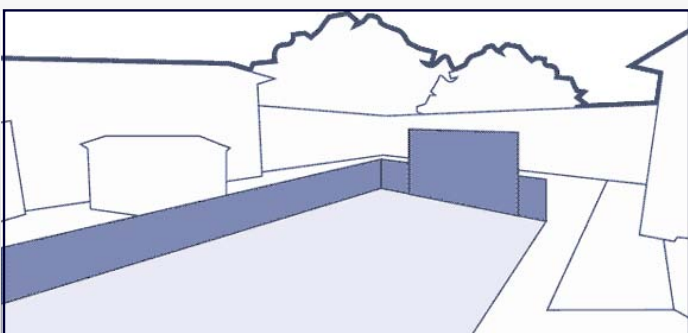
The toughest decision you'll have to make is how big to build your rink. The rest is just work. Keep in mind the shape and slope of your yard and where you want it to be. You'll also need to decide if you're going to use a liner and rink boards. Most of all, remember that you'll have to maintain the ice surface throughout the winter... and the larger the rink you build, the more time you'll have to invest.

## Step Two: Liner or No Liner



For years people have simply dragged out the hose, flooded the backyard and made a great little patch of rink ice. But there are materials at your disposal that can help you save time and keep maintenance to a minimum. This is important because we're not always blessed with sub-zero temperatures. Sometimes even the best made outdoor rink suffers from some melting. But a tarp beneath the ice can really help save the day. A tarp acts as an insulator between the ground and the ice sheet. It traps water so that it doesn't escape - and when the temperature drops back below freezing you still have a rink. And it also makes spring clean up a whole lot easier.

## Step Three: Rink Boards?



Do you need rink boards? Technically, no. You can build a perfectly acceptable backyard rink without them, but they do have some advantages. They create a defined perimeter and help keep snow from drifting onto the ice surface. They keep you and your kids from chasing pucks around your yard. And they give your rink a clean, professional look.

## Step Four: Buy Your Materials

Before you head to your local lumber dealer use this chart as a reference and decide on how much wood you'll need to buy. Depending on how flat your yard is, you may need additional materials to fit the slope of the surface. And remember to buy a few extra lengths in case you need to improvise on your design.

### 20' X 15' Rink

**Side Boards** 8 - 2x12 in 10 foot lengths  
64 - 2 1/2" deck screws

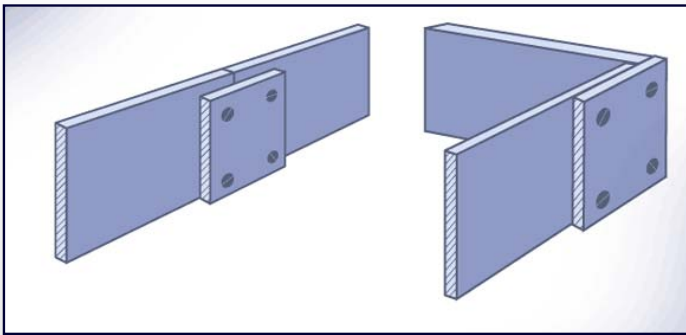
**End Boards** 6 - 8 foot 2x4's  
4 - 8 foot 1x3's  
4 - 1x2 Stakes  
2 - 3/4" 4x8 Plywood

### 40' X 30' Rink

**Side Boards** 15 - 2x12 in 10 foot lengths  
120 - 2 1/2" deck screws

**End Boards** 11 - 8 foot 2x4's  
8 - 8 foot 1x3's  
8 - 1x2 Stakes  
4 - 3/4" 4x8 Plywood

## Step Five: Assembly



Clear an area larger than the size of the ice surface you want to create.

Lay out the lumber in the approximate locations. Connect the boards as shown. And stake the boards into the ground to prevent movement. You can also backfill with snow if staking is an issue. Spread the ice rink tarp over the entire rink surface, drape it over the top of the boards, and wrap it around the back of the boards.

Slowly fill the rink area with water and make sure that the tarp fits perpendicular to the bottom of the boards.

Let the water freeze, and repeat. You'll want to build up a smooth level surface. Take your time and be careful to remove any snow before flooding.

The thicker your ice surface the better. The entire flooding process should take no longer than an hour.

## Step Six: Maintenance



Like pool ownership, rinks take constant maintenance. You'll want to routinely flood the rink to build up the thickness and maintain a smooth, even surface. It's best to flood your rink in the evening when the wind has stopped and no snow is falling. Start at one end and work slowly across the surface creating a ripple free pool of water. If it's cold enough it should begin to set immediately. But be mindful not to use the ice until it's completely frozen.