



How-To Guide

Arbors

Arbors can be constructed in many different shapes and sizes, and are adaptable for your space and intended use. While they can be purchased pre-built, arbors that are custom built onsite ensure a perfect fit.

The following guide outlines how to build a cedar arbor 7' tall, 6' wide, and 2' deep, however, the same principles described here also apply for arbors of different dimensions.

Duration



2 Days

of People



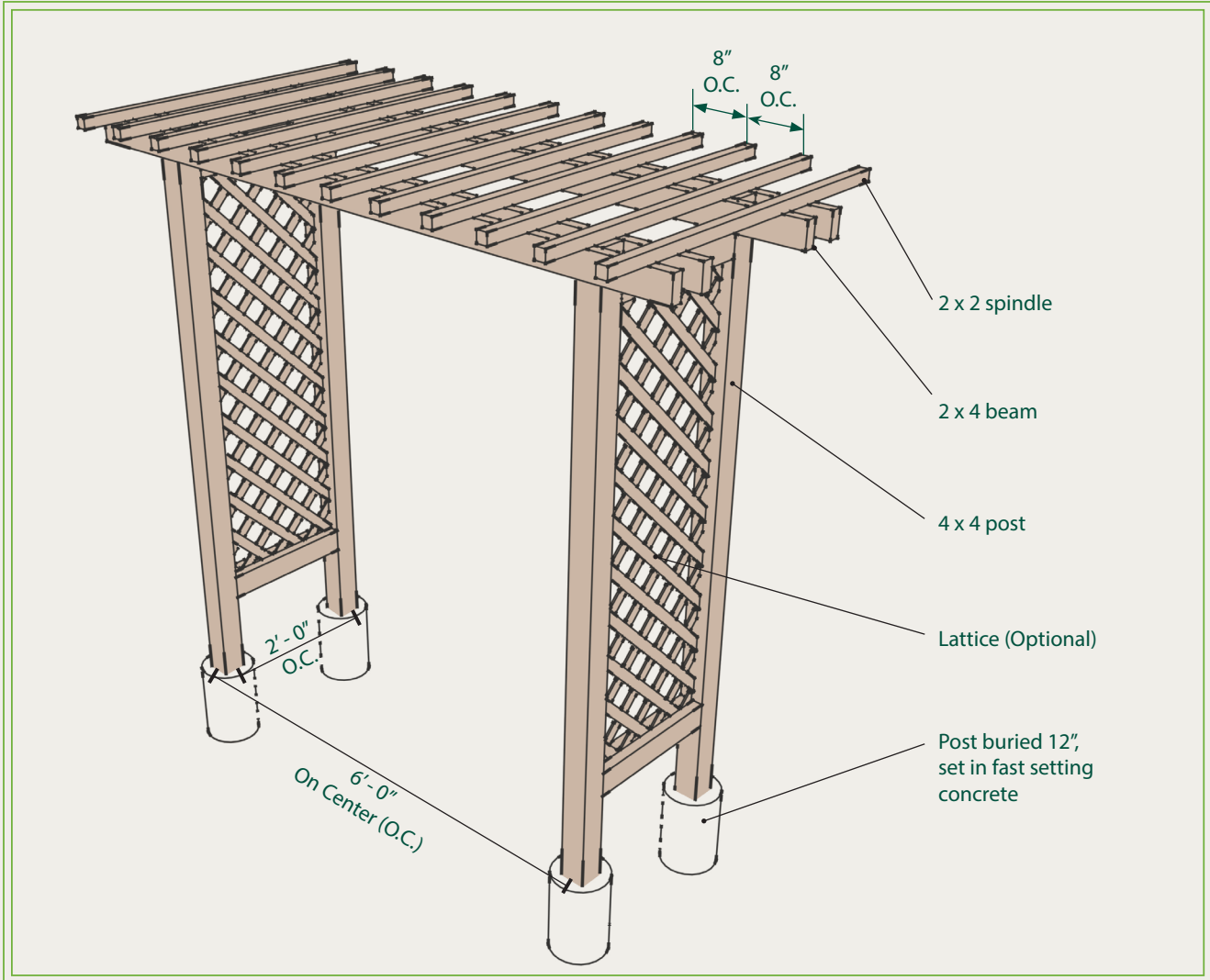
2 - 4

Required Effort



Highest degree of effort and planning

Diagram



Materials

- For the posts:
 - (4) 8' long, Cedar 4 x 4's (actual 3.5" x 3.5")
 - (1) 1 lb. box of 3", #10 coarse thread exterior wood screws
- (4) 60lb. bags of fast setting concrete mix, 1 per post
- Access to power
- For the beams:
 - (4) 8' long, Cedar (treated or sealed), 2 x 4's (actual 1.5" x 5.5")
 - Optional
 - Lattice or common lath for the sides
- For the spindles:
 - (12) 4' long, Cedar (treated or sealed) 2 x 2 balusters

Plants

- Perennial fruiting and/or flowering vines



Tools

- Miter or circular saw
- Extension cord
- Fence post level
- 3' or 4' level
- Measuring tapes
- Spray chalk marking paint
- Sharpshooter shovels
- Post-hole digger or auger
- Rockbar(s)
- Screw gun/drill with proper screw bits
- Pencils
- Speed square
- Power sanders (orbital)
- Sand paper – heavy grit (40 - 60)
- Non-toxic, water-based wood sealant
OR
Non-toxic, durable outdoor paint
- Paint brushes
- Paint rollers
- Paint trays
- Tarps or drop cloth



Implementation Steps

- 1 Gather materials
 - Determine the desired location and dimensions of the arbor including the height, length, and width to determine the necessary materials.
- 2 Layout post locations
 - Mark the post locations with marking paint.
 - Measure 4 post locations in a rectangle at 2' x 6' on center. (see diagram)
- 3 Dig post holes
 - Holes should be 12" deep, 8" diameter.
 - To make for an easier time when faced with very hard, compacted ground, try loosening it first with a rock bar or pick mattock, then removing the loose soil with the shovel or post-hole digger.
- 4 Set posts
 - Set the posts using the fast setting concrete mix.
 - Use the fence post level to make sure the posts are plumb.
 - Before setting the first post, double check the on-center measurements in relation to the other two posts next to it. Always double check the on-center measurements before setting each post!
(See diagram)
- 5 Attach beams to posts
 - Because the posts may be set at slightly different heights, rather than simply hanging the beams flush with the top of the posts, use a level to determine where to fasten the 8' beams to the posts, aiming to be as high as possible to the top of the posts.
 - Sandwich the posts between two beams making sure that they are level to each other.
 - Allow 12" of overhang on both sides.
- 6 Attach spindles
 - Space the 2 x 2 spindles at 8" on center and use screws to fasten to the beams.
- 7 (Optional) Attach lattice sides
 - Common lath, or lattice, is especially helpful for training climbing vines.
- 8 Sand any sharp edges, splinters, or snags
 - Be sure to round any pointy corners.
- 9 Weatherproof or paint
- 10 (Optional) Plant
 - Plant vines at the base of posts and water thoroughly.

Considerations

- Always call 811 before you dig, to locate buried utilities.
- For best results when setting posts in concrete, allow posts to set 24 hours prior to constructing a wooden overhead structure to ensure posts remain vertical. Setting time will vary widely based on soil moisture and air temperature.
- If fastening posts to concrete footings, pour fast setting concrete mix into a concrete form tube which can be bought at a local hardware store. Before the concrete sets, while it's still wet, place a galvanized post base suitable for 4 x 4 nominal lumber.



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