

Tool Check List

- Marking Pencil
- Hammer
- Phillips Screwdriver

- Tape Measure
- Post Hole Digger
- Power Saw

- String Line
- Level
- Gloves

1. Determine Post Location

If you have allowed for a bench at the beginning of your deck project, a 4 x 4 cedar bench post will have been extended from the deck framework. If the bench is being added to an existing deck, attach the posts to the outside of the deck with lag bolts. **(Figure 1)**

Extend the bench posts 18" above the top of the deck. Bench posts should not be more than 4 feet apart.

The exact location of your bench posts depends on the length and location of your bench. Refer to your deck drawing or ask a sales person for the proper post location.

2. Setting the Fence Posts

Each bench post will require two arms. Use 2 x 4 cedar. If using a 5/4 x 6 or 2 x 6 for the bench surface, cut the arms 16 3/4" inches. This will allow for three runs of decking with a 1/8" space. **(Figure 2)**

3. Knee Brace

Cut the knee brace to 16 inches. Use 2 x 4 cedar. Cut each end of the knee brace to a 45 degree angle. **(Figure 3)** Fit the knee brace in between the 2 x 4 cedar arms. Use #16 box nails. Nail through the arms into the knee brace.

The knee brace should be flush with the top of the 2 x 4 arms or slightly below the arms. Be sure that the knee brace does not stick up past the 2 x 4 arms.

Toe-nail the other end of the knee brace to the 4 x 4 cedar posts. Use #16 box nails. **(Figure 4)**

4. Building Bench Frame

Use 2 x 6 cedar for the bench frame. The bench frame will need to extend above the posts the thickness of the bench surface. If using 5/4 x 6 for the bench surface, the frame should be 1 1/8" above the posts and arms. If using 2 x 4 or 2 x 6, the frame should be 1 1/2" above the posts and arms.

Attach the front and back 2 x 6 to the posts 12" - 16". Cut the ends to a 45 degree angle. Use #16 casing nails. **(Figure 5)**

Figure 1

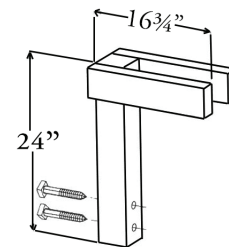


Figure 2

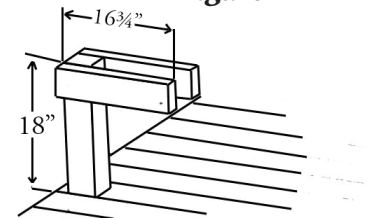


Figure 3

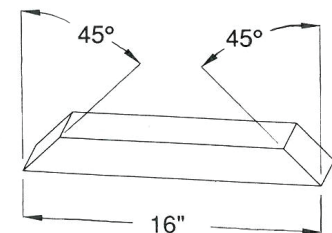


Figure 4

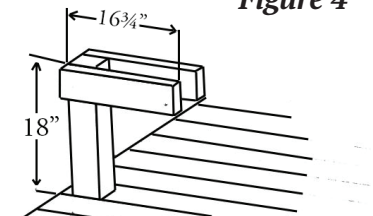
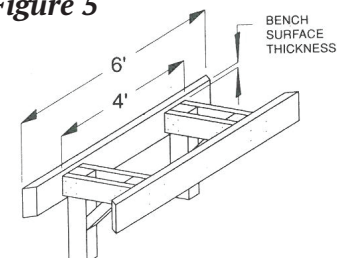


Figure 5



4. Building Bench Frame (Cont.)

Once the frame is secure, 2 x 4 joists will need to be installed between the posts and to each end of the bench frame. Space the joists evenly, but do not exceed 24". Arms will substitute for joists.

Make sure the joists are recessed at the same height as the posts and arms.

Nail thru the bench frame into the joists with #16 casing nails. (**Figure 6**)

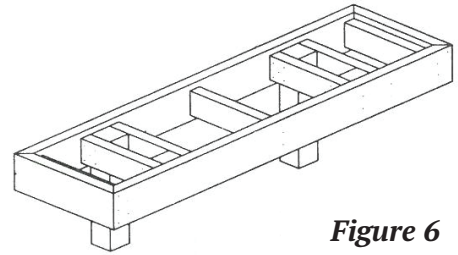


Figure 6

5. Bench Surface

Lay the deck boards down inside the bench frame, making sure the boards are the same distance apart. If using 5/4 x 6 or 2 x 6 for the bench surface, there will be three runs of decking. If using 2 x 4, there will be five runs of decking.

To secure the decking, use #10 casing nails for 5/4 x 6 and #16 casing nails for 2 x 4 and 2 x 6. Nail boards to each joist in a straight row. To avoid a bad nail pattern, only nail to one of the arms. (**Figure 7**)

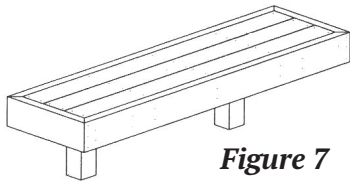


Figure 7

6. Corner Benches

In some situations a corner bench will require a corner post. When one side of a corner bench ends in a multiple of 4 feet, use a corner post. Otherwise put posts next to corners. (**Figure 8**)

When using a corner post, the post will need to be set at an angle. Attach arm and knee braces to all posts except the corner post. (**Figure 9**)

Install the back 2 x 6 of the bench frame.

Install arms on corner posts. Cut one end of each arm to a 45 degree angle. Fit that end against the post and the 2 x 6 frame. Nail it to the post with five #16 box nails. (**Figure 10**).

Let the other end extend past the spot where the front of the bench frame would be. (**Figure 11**)

Place a level or straight edge on top of the arms extending from the corner post. Mark the arms of the corner post and trim them accordingly. The arms should be cut at the proper angle to accommodate the front of the bench frame. (**Figure 12**)

Install the knee brace to the corner post. Use the same measurement methods as regular posts.

Attach the front and ends of the bench frame.

Lay the bench surface so that one end of the boards can be cut to a 45 degree angle. Those ends will meet in the corner. (**Figure 13**)

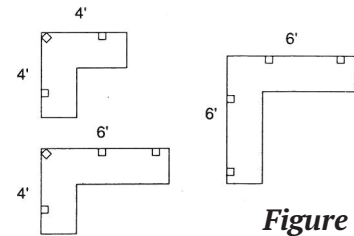


Figure 8

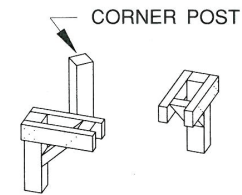


Figure 9

Figure 10

Figure 11

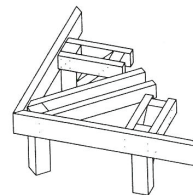


Figure 12

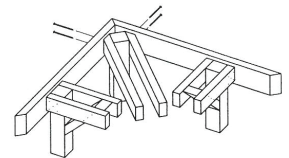


Figure 13