

THE BENCH

BUILD GUIDE / Seven boards. Two steel ends. One very good bench.



IN THE BOX

2 steel end panels
Set screws + hex key
Care card

YOU PROVIDE

7 standard 2x4s
Saw + tape measure
120 + 180 grit sandpaper

OPTIONAL

1 extra 2x4 as insurance
Wood finish of your choice

01 BEFORE YOU START

Count the hardware against your packing card before you begin. Choose straight lumber with as little twist or bow as possible. The bench requires seven 2x4s; we recommend picking up an eighth as insurance. If your lumber yard offers cutting, you can have the boards cut to length there.

NO SAW? Most lumber yards and big-box stores will cut boards to length for you. Bring your finished length written down.

02 CUT YOUR LUMBER

Decide your finished bench length. Cut all seven boards to exactly the same length. A 4 ft bench seats two; 5 ft seats three; 6 ft makes a generous hallway or dining bench. Anything up to 10 ft works without a center support.

MEASURE ONCE. If you can, use a stop block so every board lands at exactly the same length. Line all seven up afterward and trim any board that sticks out.

03 KNOCK THE EDGES OFF

Start with 120-grit sandpaper. Sand the sharp edges, flat sides, and freshly cut ends. Then go over everything with 180-grit for a smoother finish. You are not trying to make the lumber perfect – just comfortable to touch and ready for finish.

DO THIS BEFORE ASSEMBLY. Once the boards are inside the steel ends, some areas are harder to reach.

04 PUT IT TOGETHER

Lay both steel ends flat, roughly your bench length apart and facing outward. Place the seven boards into the openings, starting with the two outside boards. Stand the bench up, then tighten the set screws with the included hex key. Work your way around the bench rather than fully tightening one end first.

CHECK THE CURVE. If a board has a slight bow, orient it so the middle bows upward rather than dipping down. Sit on the finished bench, then check the screws once more and snug up anything that settled.

THE BENCH

FINISH + CARE / Make it yours, then keep it that way.



05 FINISH THE WOOD

Finish all sides of each board before final assembly. Follow the product manufacturer's application and drying instructions. You can also leave the lumber unfinished if you want it to age naturally.

OPTION	LOOK	GOOD FOR	REFRESH / REPAIR
Raw	Pale + natural	Letting marks and age show	Sand and start over
Oil	Warm + richer grain	Everyday indoor use	Easy to refresh
Wax	Natural + soft sheen	Light use / dry spaces	Easy to reapply
Lacquer / Poly	Matte to gloss	Heavy use + spills	More work to repair

06 RAW STEEL CARE

Ordered powder-coated steel? You're done - skip this chapter. Raw steel is for people who want to choose the finish themselves: keep it raw, let it rust, or paint it.

KEEP IT RAW

Remove the dark manufacturing scale if needed, then protect the steel with oil, wax, or a clear coat made for metal. A clear coat generally lasts longer and needs less upkeep.

LET IT RUST

Remove the scale first, then let the steel get wet and dry naturally until you like the patina. Brush away loose rust and seal it with a product made for rusted metal.

PAINT IT

Clean and degrease the steel, apply a primer made for bare metal, then use a compatible metal paint. Follow the manufacturer's prep, coat, and drying instructions.

RUST RUNOFF CAN STAIN CONCRETE AND STONE. If you intentionally weather raw steel, do it over gravel, decomposed granite, or soil - not your new patio.

YOU BUILT A BENCH.

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