**Mitre Plan Project Planner**

**Build outdoors with lattice**

- An easy-to-follow guide to achieving a perfect result.
- Outlines all the tools you will need for the job.
- Includes a materials checklist.

**PLEASE NOTE:**
Before starting this project or buying any materials, it is worth your time to read all steps thoroughly first to be sure you understand what is required.

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Build outdoors with lattice

The materials listed are for two wall panels each 2.4m long. Your checklist will depend on how long you want to make the wall and the number of panels required. We have also chosen to build it in treated pine which requires no painting or staining. If using any other timber, be sure to ask for durable quality timber.

**Posts:** 3 – 100 x 100mm x 2400mm long

**Rails:** 3 – 100 x 50mm x 2400mm long

**Lattice:** 2 sheets per panel 900mm wide x 2400mm long

**Joists:** Unseasoned hardwood or treated radiata pine 100 x 50mm

**Galvanised nails:**
- 75 x 3.75mm bullet head for rails
- 50 x 2.8mm flat head for lattice

**Dry cement**

**Stakes**

**50 x 25mm timber bracing**

**Timber post hole sole plates**

(or concrete if desired)

**Other materials**

[Mitre10.com.au](http://mitre10.com.au) for more mighty tools for your MitrePlan

**Verbal quotes are indicative only. Written quotes on materials are available upon request from your Mitre 10 store.**

**Mighty Helpful Checklist**

- Building a lattice wall will be easier if you gather and prepare all tools and materials first.
- Save time and effort by hiring or buying an auger-type post hole digger.
- To ensure your lattice wall runs in a straight line, set corner posts first.
- Always use galvanised nails in fixing timber lattice outdoors – ordinary nails will rust and stain the timber.
- Measure all post holes centre to centre to ensure they are equal distance and for appearance.
- Remember, when using any power tool, your eyes should always be protected by wearing suitable goggles.
- Depending on the size and location of your lattice wall, you may need the approval of your local Shire or council before you start.

**Mighty Helpful Tips to Make the Job Easier**


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### MIGHTY HELPFUL CHECKLIST

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#### ORDER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Material</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>Posts</td>
<td>3 – 100 x 100mm x 2400mm long</td>
</tr>
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#### Other materials

- Measuring tape
- Pencil
- Power saw or hand saw
- Claw hammer
- String line
- Spirit level
- 20mm wood chisel
- Shovel or post hole digger

Add privacy and charm with lattice – and a little help from Mitre 10.

Lattice was once popular for decorating and styling architecture, particularly during the Federation period around the turn of the century. Now, after years of almost total disregard, lattice is back in fashion again because of the great results you can achieve with it and because it is so simple to erect. Today, home owners are finding new and exciting uses for this multipurpose product to decorate their gardens and homes, and some of the clever ways are shown on the back page.

But probably the most common use is as a garden screen or divider to provide a wind break for a barbecue area or swimming pool, or to add privacy from neighbours or from people passing by on the street. And in this MitrePlan, we show you step-by-step how easy it is to build a 1.8m high lattice screen wall.

All you need are average do-it-yourself skills, and the right equipment and advice from your Mitre 10 specialist.

#### Step 1: Getting started

Your first job is to mark the line of the wall and to make sure all posts will be set in a straight line. To do this, mark both corner posts first. Drive in a stake at one end post position and run a stringline the full length of the wall. Drive in a second stake marking the opposite end post position. Then measure and stake all intermediary posts, remembering to allow for the 2.4m lengths of lattice. Dig the post holes approximately 500mm deep x 300mm square. To make your job easier, consider hiring an auger-type post hole digger.

#### Step 2: Cutting the rail notches

Next job is to notch the posts for the cross rails before setting them in the ground.

The top rail is set flush with the top of the post. The bottom rail is set approximately 100mm above the ground. When measuring, be sure to allow for the part that goes in the ground, around 500mm. The middle rail is spaced between them, allowing for the 900mm widths of lattice.

The top and bottom rail notches are made by sawing to the thickness of the rail and chiselling out the excess (Fig. 3). They should not be deeper than the thickness of the rails to provide for a flush fit.

The middle rail post notches are made by sawing and chiselling to the width of the rail and set 15mm deep on the inside of each corner post and on both sides of any post in between (Fig. 3).
**Step 3: Setting the posts**

First, place a timber sole plate in the bottom of each hole and stand the post on it. Or use a 50mm thickness of concrete instead of the timber sole plate.

Next, stretch a stringline between the two corner posts to align one side of the posts. Fix the stringline to the height on the bottom rail notch (Fig. 4). Use your spirit level to make sure the line is level along the entire length of the wall. If the ground is a bit uneven, you may have to adjust a post by either digging the hole slightly deeper of filling in to ensure the bottom of the notch is level with the stringline and the other posts. The lattice is nailed flush with the bottom of the rail and if it’s not straight, your lattice could end up crooked.

You’ll need to brace each post temporarily with the 50 x 25mm battens so they stay upright and straight (Fig. 5).

Where posts are to be set in sandy soil, special post struts may be required (Fig. 6).

Fill the holes completely with a 50/50 mixture of soil and dry cement. Check the post is truly vertical with your spirit level, adjusting the post braces as necessary. Then tamp down the mixture hard to firm it. Slope the top of the mixture away from the post above the ground to allow rain to run off. Finally, add water to set the cement in the soil and leave overnight.

**Step 4: Completing the job**

Next day, cut and fix the rails in the post notches using 75 x 3.75mm galvanised bullet head nails. Leave the braces in position to stiffen the post for nailing.

Joins in the rails should be butted together in the middle of the post and no two rail joins should happen in the same post if you can avoid it.

Attach the lattice with 50 x 2.8mm galvanised flat head nails, checking the midrail for straightness while nailing.

You might also like to consider adding a capping to your new lattice wall to give it a more professional overall effect (Fig. 7). In this case, choose an angled capping that will shed water, and fix it using one galvanised nail every 600mm., driving the nail at least 35mm into the rail.

**Let loose with lattice**

There are literally hundreds of ways that lattice can be used creatively to add privacy and charm to your garden and home.

Use it as an attractive screen on top of a paling fence to provide additional privacy as well as a perfect place for creepers to grow. Simply fix 90 x 35mm uprights to the rails on either side of the fence and nail the lattice panels to them.

Just picture a handsome arbor as a focal point in your garden landscape – perfect for a climbing rose. It’s sturdy and a breeze to put up.

Or how about a quick, easy-to-make lattice shelving unit.

Cut the uprights from a panel of lattice, nail or screw battens at the top and bottom to hold them together and add some ready made shelving.

If you need an occasional screen, just join several panels of lattice together with hinges and you have an easy and attractive portable Chinese garden screen to add privacy, hide unsightly areas, or stop straying pets.

Lattice is the perfect answer for garden screens and dividers, or attaching to walls for climbing plants. You can use it to provide shade on an exposed verandah or patio, or to enclose a fernery. Where too much sunshine comes into the house, add some lattice to the eaves to help screen it out.

Use it to screen a carport, to hide caravans, trailers and boats from public view, or to screen utility areas from entertainment areas.

In fact, the uses of lattice today seems only limited by your imagination. So go to it – and you’ll enjoy your house and garden even more.
Build outdoors with lattice

MIGHTY HELPFUL HINTS TO MAKE THE JOB EASIER

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- Measure all post holes centre to centre to ensure they are equal distance and for appearance.
- Remember, when using any power tool, your eyes should always be protected by wearing suitable goggles.
- Depending on the size and location of your lattice wall, you may need the approval of your local Shire or council before you start.

IMPORTANT: This project planner has been produced to provide basic information and our experienced staff are available to answer any questions you may have. However, this information is provided for use on the understanding that Mitre 10 is not liable for any loss or damage which is suffered or incurred (including but not limited to indirect or consequential loss), for any personal injury or damage to property suffered or sustained as a result of using the information contained in this MitrePlan Project Planner. Mitre 10 advises you to call in a qualified tradesperson, such as an electrician or plumber, where expert services are required, and to independently assess any safety precautions that will need to be followed prior to using the information in this MitrePlan Project Planner.

WARNING: There may be by laws or regulations of councils or other statutory bodies that you must comply with when following this MitrePlan Project Planner.

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