REDWOOD
Naturally beautiful
Easy to use
Practical and economical
Durable and stable
Resistant to decay and insects
Enhance the alluring appeal of a backyard spa with this handsome redwood spa surround. Its elegant, custom-crafted design features a comfortable wrap-around lounging bench and two sets of easy-to-build steps, which provide a safe, convenient way in and out of the spa.

For this project, you can use either Construction Common or Deck Common redwood; both grades are economical and offer a rich mixture of heartwood and sapwood. Where increased decay resistance is needed, such as for the 2x4 and sapwood. Where increased decay resistance is needed, such as for the 2x4 and sapwood. Where increased decay resistance is needed, such as for the 2x4 and sapwood.

Before starting this project, carefully study the plans and materials lists. Remember that it is best to measure and cut as you build for the most accurate results. To prevent staining, use only high quality non-corrosive fasteners.

The skeletal frame of the side bench is primarily constructed out of vertical 2x4s and horizontal 2x6s, narrow 2x2s separate the 2x6 side boards. The entire frame rests on 2x4 sleepers, which form a flat, stable base. The top surface of the bench is made of 2x6s spaced 3/8 inch apart. Fasten the boards together with 3-inch galvanized or stainless steel screws or 10d nails. If you use screws, drive them in with a cordless drill/driver. When assembling the frame, be certain to use a carpenter’s framing square to ensure that the parts are perfectly square, meaning they form true 90° angles.

1. Assemble sleepers and frames
   Start by cutting to length the two 2x4 sleepers. For a 6-foot spa, cut them to 61 1/2 inches.)
   A power table saw provides a quick, accurate way to crosscut lumber, but a portable circular saw or handsaw will work just as well.

   Next, cut the five pairs of vertical 2x4 frames. Note that two pairs (four pieces) are 25 inches tall, while the remaining pairs are 18, 11 and 4 inches tall. These tiered pairs form the three steps and accommodate spas 26-29 inches tall. Ideally, the spa surround should be slightly lower than the spa edge. Cut the 2x4s shorter or longer to fit a spa of different height. Mark the positions of the vertical 2x4s on the sleepers, and then attach them with screws or nails driven up through the bottom of the sleepers.

2. Attach step risers
   Cut four 2x6 risers to length and fasten them flush with the top of the vertical 2x4s. Drive the fasteners in from the back of the 2x6s so they won’t show.

3. Board sides and spacers
   Cut only enough 2x6 side boards and 2x2 spacers to fit across the spa side length and the end of the partially assembled bench. The outside side boards and spacers will be trimmed to fit and installed later after the two benches have been joined. Use the carpenter’s square to make certain that the 2x4 frames are true vertical before securing any side boards.

   Starting at the bottom, fasten a 2x6 to the side of the frame that will face the spa. Place a 2x2 spacer above the 2x6 and fasten it to the frame. Repeat for the end of the frame. Continue alternating 2x6s and 2x2s until you reach the top of the frame. (See Design Options for Corner Treatment details.) Slide the bench into position alongside the spa, but don’t attach the side boards to the outside surface just yet.

4. Attach step treads
   You can attach the treads now or wait until installing all the bench boards. Trim six 2x6 boards to 24⅛ inches. Set the boards into place, starting them even with the spa-side length and the end of the frame.

   Drive them in with a cordless drill/driver. When assembling the frame, be certain to use a carpenter’s framing square to ensure that the parts are perfectly square, meaning they form true 90° angles.

This brochure contains all the information you’ll need to construct the redwood spa surround. Start by building the side bench, which includes an attached set of steps. Then assemble the rear bench. Join the two benches to form the wraparound surround. Note that the building plans and materials lists presented will help you to build a spa surround. This redwood spa surround is designed to be a freestanding unit. It offers a rich mixture of heartwood and sapwood. Where increased decay resistance is needed, such as for the 2x4 portions of the frame, be certain to use a carpenter’s framing square to ensure that the parts are perfectly square, meaning they form true 90° angles.

A power table saw provides a quick, accurate way to crosscut lumber, but a portable circular saw or handsaw will work just as well.

Next, cut the five pairs of vertical 2x4 frames. Note that two pairs (four pieces) are 25 inches tall, while the remaining pairs are 18, 11 and 4 inches tall. These tiered pairs form the three steps and accommodate spas 26-29 inches tall. Ideally, the spa surround should be slightly lower than the spa edge. Cut the 2x4s shorter or longer to fit a spa of different height. Mark the positions of the vertical 2x4s on the sleepers, and then attach them with screws or nails driven up through the bottom of the sleepers.

This redwood spa surround is designed to be a freestanding unit. It can be adapted to fit any size spa. The side boards and spacers will be trimmed to fit and installed later after the two benches have been joined. Use the carpenter’s square to make certain that the 2x4 frames are true vertical before securing any side boards.

Starting at the bottom, fasten a 2x6 to the side of the frame that will face the spa. Place a 2x2 spacer above the 2x6 and fasten it to the frame. Repeat for the end of the frame. Continue alternating 2x6s and 2x2s until you reach the top of the frame. (See Design Options for Corner Treatment details.) Slide the bench into position alongside the spa, but don’t attach the side boards to the outside surface just yet.

You can attach the treads now or wait until installing all the bench boards. Trim six 2x6 boards to 24⅛ inches. Set the boards into place, starting them even with the spa-side length and the end of the frame. Drive them in with a cordless drill/driver. When assembling the frame, be certain to use a carpenter’s framing square to ensure that the parts are perfectly square, meaning they form true 90° angles.

A power table saw provides a quick, accurate way to crosscut lumber, but a portable circular saw or handsaw will work just as well.
With the two benches joined together, place the partially completed frame assembly to make five identical frames, each measuring 21 inches wide by 25 inches tall. Again, be sure to use non-corrosive fasteners.

Trim the 2x4 sleepers to fit the length of the spa plus the width of the side bench framing—about eight feet. Fasten the assembled frames to the sleepers, making certain that they’re evenly spaced. If your spa requires a longer bench, you will need longer sleepers and additional frames. Keep the frame spans equal and spaced no more than 24 inches on center (o.c.).

Before placing the bench frame into position alongside the spa, install the 2x2 spacers and 2x6 side boards to the surface that goes up against the spa. But, don’t cover the entire side. Fasten one continuous 2x6 along the entire bottom of the bench frame and another along the top. Then cut three 2x2 spacers and two 2x6 side boards to span the distance from the first frame to the second frame. These boards help conceal from view the open space beneath the bench. (They’ll also prevent cats and other critters from crawling under the bench.)

Before starting on the rear bench decide on the type of bench-board pattern you’d like; see the section on Spa Surround Design Options. No special consideration is needed for laying the right-angle board pattern, but you’ll have to install additional bracing for the 45° or sunburst patterns; see Special Framing Details below.

Also, if you’d like to utilize the space beneath the rear bench for storage, check out the Storage Access Option. It provides detailed instructions on how to frame out a 48-inch-wide opening and build two swing-out doors.

**1. Assemble framing** to the side bench, start by cutting to length the two 2x4 spacers. For maximum decay resistance, use an all-heartwood grade of redwood, such as Construction Heart or Deck Heart. Cut all the vertical 2x4 frame parts to 25 inches (for a 28-inch tall spa). Cut the horizontal 2x4 frame parts to 21 inches to ultimately create a bench that’s 24 inches wide. Use 10d nails or 3-inch deck screws to fasten together the parts to make five identical frames, each measuring 21 inches wide by 25 inches tall. Again, be sure to use non-corrosive fasteners.

Trim the 2x4 sleepers to fit the length of the spa plus the width of the side bench framing—about eight feet. Fasten the assembled frames to the sleepers, making certain that they’re evenly spaced. If your spa requires a longer bench, you will need longer sleepers and additional frames. Keep the frame spans equal and spaced no more than 24 inches on center (o.c.).

Before placing the bench frame into position alongside the spa, install the 2x2 spacers and 2x6 side boards to the surface that goes up against the spa. But, don’t cover the entire side. Fasten one continuous 2x6 along the entire bottom of the bench frame and another along the top. Then cut three 2x2 spacers and two 2x6 side boards to span the distance from the first frame to the second frame. These boards help conceal from view the open space beneath the bench. (They’ll also prevent cats and other critters from crawling under the bench.)

**2. Join rear and side benches** Place the partially completed bench into position against the rear of the spa. Check to make sure that it’s properly aligned with the side bench and that the two structures form an exact right angle. Fasten together the two benches with several nails or screws.

**3. Attach side boards** With the two benches joined together, you can continue installing the side boards and spacers. Begin with the boards on the end of the rear bench. Fasten the bottommost 2x6 side board, then work your way up to the top of the bench alternating a 2x6 with a 2x2. Move around to the back of the rear bench and repeat the process. Again, start with a 2x6 and align each board with its mating member on the end of the bench.

Once the end and back of the rear bench are covered, install the 2x6 side boards and 2x2 spacers to the side bench. Note that these pieces extend all the way across both the side bench and the end of the rear bench, thus hiding the joint between the two.

**4. Install bench boards** Cover the tops of both benches and the steps with redwood 2x6s. For the steps, cut the boards so that they overhang the side boards by exactly 1/2 inch. Cut the bench boards slightly long and trim them to fit afterwards. Use 16d nails to help space the boards 1 1/2 inch apart. Fasten each one with four 10d nails or 3-inch deck screws flush to the bench surface. Do not countersink. When you get to the corner of the tub, you will want to cut the boards to fit the tub radius allowing for a 1/4 to 1/2 inch drain space. Make a cardboard template of the tub corner. Lay out your bench boards on a flat surface including the 1/4-inch spaces. Transfer the trim line from the template and trim and install the corner bench boards.

**5. Trim bench boards** To achieve a professional looking cut, use a circular saw to trim the ends of all the overhanging boards at the same time. Measure 1/2 inch out from the side board and use a chalk line to snap a line across the top surface of the boards. (You could also use a long straight-edged board.) Guide the saw along the line to trim off the overhanging bench boards. Smooth out any rough edges and ease all sharp corners with 100 grit sandpaper.

**Finishing** To protect the visual beauty of your project and extend its life, finish the exposed surfaces with a clear water repellent containing a mildewcide. See the finishes section on the address panel of this brochure for more finish options.

**Tools you will need** To build this redwood spa surround, you’ll need a power miter saw, saber saw, circular saw or fine-tooth handsaw, hammer, cordless drill/driver, measuring tape, chalk reel, carpenter’s square, combination square, and hand plane or belt sander. A small clamp would also be helpful for holding together the frame parts while you drive in the nails or screws.

Fasteners should be top quality hot-dipped galvanized or stainless-steel nails or screws. The lists below itemize the sizes and amounts of redwood needed to build the spa surround framing and steps.

### Materials for 6-Foot Side Bench and Steps

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<td>25 inches</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
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<td>2</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>2x4</td>
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<td>2</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>2x6</td>
<td>8 feet/to fit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>2x6</td>
<td>8 feet/to fit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>2x6</td>
<td>24 1/2 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>2x6</td>
<td>24 1/2 inches</td>
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### Materials for 8-Foot Rear Bench

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<td>2</td>
<td>2x4</td>
<td>10 feet/to fit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>2x6</td>
<td>10 feet/to fit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>2x6</td>
<td>10 feet/to fit</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>2x2</td>
<td>10 feet/to fit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>2x6</td>
<td>22 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>2x2</td>
<td>22 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>2x6</td>
<td>27 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>2x2</td>
<td>27 inches</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Optional Materials

- **Bench boards** See bench-board patterns materials list
- **Fasteners** 2 pounds 10d common nails or 3-inch deck screws

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**Tools and Materials**

- **Vertical frames**
- **Side boards**
- **Sleepers**
- **Spa-side back boards**
- **Side boards**
- **Spacers**
- **Short side boards**
- **Short side spacers**
- **Step risers**
- **Step treads**
- **Bench boards**
- **Fasteners**

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**Building Process**

1. **Assembly:** Start by framing the sides of the bench, ensuring even spacing and alignment. Use redwood, such as Construction Heart or Deck Heart, for maximum decay resistance.

2. **Joining:** Once the side benches are in position, join them using the partially completed frame assembly. Fasten the boards together with 10d nails or 3-inch deck screws.

3. **Attaching Side Boards:** Add the side boards to the completed frame, covering the top and extending evenly. Use 16d nails for a secure fit.

4. **Finishing:** Apply a clear water repellent to protect the surface. Include a mildewcide to extend the life of the finish.

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**Diagram:**

- **Front view:** Shows the layout of the bench with dimensions and materials.
- **Side view:** Details the framing and assembly process.
- **Top view:** Provides a clear picture of the bench’s structure and the placement of materials.

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**Additional Notes:**

- **Tools Required:** Power miter saw, saber saw, circular saw, fine-tooth handsaw, hammer, cordless drill/driver, measuring tape, chalk reel, carpenter’s square, combination square, hand plane, or belt sander, and small clamp.
- **Material List:** Redwood, 2x4s, 2x6s, 2x2s, Construction Heart or Deck Heart, deck screws (10d for framing, 3-inch for finish), and fasteners.

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**Final Considerations:**

- Ensure proper alignment and spacing of all parts.
- Use top-quality fasteners to ensure durability.
- Consider the sunburst patterns for a unique aesthetic.
- Address all necessary safety considerations for use around the spa.
**SPA SURROUND DESIGN OPTIONS**

The building plan for this redwood spa is flexible enough to permit several design options. Below are examples of four different corner treatments and three bench-board patterns from which you can choose. And best of all, none of these design options requires a significant increase in the amount of time or materials needed to complete the surround.

**Corner treatments** The outside corner joints, where the side boards and spacers meet at right angles, can be fitted together in many ways. The easiest approach is to alternately stack the side boards and spacers using either butt joints or box joints. For a visually cleaner look, use miter joints; recommended for well-seasoned (dry) lumber only. To create a series of interesting shadow lines around the spa surround, choose the recessed-accent option and separate the 2x6 side boards with smaller 1x2 spacers.

**Bench-board patterns** The right-angle bench-board pattern shown above is by far the easiest to build, but the 45° and sunburst patterns are much more interesting. Remember that these two patterns require the installation of additional framing to support the 2x6 bench boards; see Special Framing Details at right.

**Bracing for 45° pattern** In this popular pattern, the 2x6 bench boards from the side and rear benches meet at the bench corner. As a result, there’s a seam running diagonally across the bench. To support the board ends along this seam, install a pair of notched 4x4 posts and a double-2x4 cross brace. Cut a 3½-inch-deep notch into the top of each post. Before nailing together the double-2x4 brace, slip three short strips of ½-inch plywood between the 2x6s, to allow water to drain through to the ground.

**Bracing for sunburst pattern** The bench boards for this attractive pattern require additional bracing because they are cut to a taper and span too great a distance. To install a diagonal brace across the bench corner, cut the ends of a 2x4 to 45° and nail it in place.

**Trimming boards for a sunburst pattern** To make this job easier, create a template of the corner construction on a large piece of plywood or cardboard, as shown below. Establish the diagonal starting line across the bench corner. Lay the first 2x6 board on the starting line. As you add boards remember to space the boards ½ inch apart. Mark the tapered cutting line from the inside corner of the board to where its outside edge would meet the bench frame. Cut the taper with a circular saw and repeat for the other boards, making sure you leave the ends running long.

Make a cardboard template of the spa’s rounded corner and use it to mark the curved cut line onto the board ends. Trim boards with a hand or saber saw. Fasten the trimmed boards in place on the bench frames with deck screws or nails. Predrill nail holes at the board ends to prevent splitting. Trim all the bench boards to length, leaving a ½-inch overhang.

**2. Assemble storage doors** Build the two doors out of alternating 2x6s and 2x8s to match the surround. Cut the boards to length, then lay them face down. Make sure they are square and use a clamp to hold the doors while you fasten the boards together. Attach two vertical 1x6 battens and a diagonal 1x6 batten strip across the joints. Note that the 1x6 battens are positioned 1¼ inches up from the door bottom in order to clear the 2x6 sleeper.

**3. Trim to fit** Test fit the doors in the opening. If they fit too tightly, trim ½-¼ inch from the top and side of each door with a belt sander or hand plane.

**STORAGE ACCESS OPTION**

Take advantage of the empty space beneath the rear bench by building a convenient storage compartment. Its opening measures about 21 inches high by 48 inches wide and is concealed behind two easy-to-assemble doors.

**1. Framing details** Build the structural frames of the rear bench out of 2x6s and space them 24 inches apart, as shown below. Note that each frame is made up of four 2x6s, except the center frame. It only has one vertical 2x4 and one horizontal 2x4. The front and bottom pieces are purposely left out to create the wide-open, easy-access storage area.

When installing the 2x6 side boards and 2x2 spacers, cut them flush with the vertical 2x4 frames on each side of the opening. Fasten a long, continuous 2x6 at the top of the opening and allow the 2x6 sleeper to run across the very bottom of the compartment.

**4. Hinges** Hang each door with a pair of galvanized metal strap hinges. You can attach the hinges with the short wood screws provided but, for maximum strength, replace them with ¾-inch by 2-inch galvanized lag screws. Drill ½-inch screw pilot holes into the doors and screw on the hinges. Set the doors in the opening and use shims to hold them in place. Drill pilot holes into the 2x6 side boards and attach the second hinge leaf with Lag screws.

These lists detail the materials needed for each bench-board pattern and any special framing, if required, along with the additional framing and hardware needed for the storage access.

**Materials For Bench-board Patterns**

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<th>Pattern</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
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<td>45° pattern</td>
<td>13</td>
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<td>24 ½ inches</td>
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<tr>
<td>Corner bench boards</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2x6</td>
<td>trim to 45° to fit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Braces</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2x4</td>
<td>29 inches to fit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spacers</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2x4</td>
<td>18 inches to fit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunburst pattern</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2x6</td>
<td>4 feet to fit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corner bench boards</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>2x6</td>
<td>24 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brace</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2x6</td>
<td>28 inches to fit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Right angle pattern</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2x6</td>
<td>24 ½ inches</td>
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**Additional Materials For Storage Access**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quantity</th>
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<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diagonal battens</td>
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<td>1x6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strap hinges</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barrel bolts</td>
<td>2 sets with wood screws</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lag bolts, nuts and washers</td>
<td>as needed</td>
<td>3½ x 2 inches</td>
</tr>
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**STAND ALONE STEPS**

This optional set of steps is constructed very much like the spa surround. It has a 2x4 frame and 2x6 side boards separated by 2x2 spacers. The treads and risers are cut from 2x6s. For maximum safety and convenience, build the steps long enough to span the entire width of the spa. The steps illustrated here are 48 inches long, but you can easily adjust the dimensions to fit any spa. When you add framing, keep the spans at 24 inches o.c. or less.

1. **Assemble the framing** Begin by cutting the three 2x4 sleepers to 18 1/2 inches long. Next, make the nine vertical 2x4 frame parts; cut six of them to 11 inches long and three to 4 inches long. Nail or screw the verticals to the sleepers, as shown. Cut two 2x6 back boards and one 2x2 spacer to 45 inches. Attach these boards to the three sleeper/framing assemblies, positioning one assembly at each end and one in the middle.

2. **Install inner boards and side boards** Cut to length the 2x6 side boards and spacers. Attach two side boards and one spacer to each end of the step assembly. Next, trim to fit two 2x6 inner boards and fasten them to the middle 2x4 frame.

3. **Attach risers and treads** Each step tread consists of two 2x6s and each riser is made up of a single 2x6. Saw the four tread boards to 49 inches; cut each riser to 45 inches. Fasten the two 2x6 treads into place. Check to make sure that their ends overhang by 1/2 inch and that there is a 1/8-inch space between the boards. Secure each tread with six 10d non-corrosive nails or 3-inch deck screws.

**Materials For 48-inch Stand Alone Steps**

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<thead>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vertical frames</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>6</td>
<td>2x4 11 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inner boards</td>
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<td>2x6 7 1/2 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Side boards</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2x6 10 1/2 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Side boards</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Side spacers</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2x2 10 1/2 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Riser, back boards</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2x6 45 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Back spacer (optional)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2x2 45 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treads</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2x6 49 inches</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fasteners</td>
<td>1 pound 8d common nails or 2 1/2-inch deck screws</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fasteners</td>
<td>1 pound 10d common nails or 3-inch deck screws</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Contact the California Redwood Association for more great publications containing redwood technical and building information. Call us toll free at 1-888-Cal-Redwood for a complete literature list and to ask for any of the titles listed here.

**Redwood**

For beauty and performance, redwood is naturally superior to other woods. That’s why it’s the first choice for decks, fences and most outdoor projects. Redwood retains its beauty outdoors, shrinks and swells less than other woods and is less likely to warp, split, check or cup. With relatively little or no pitch, redwood is easy to drill, saw and shape. Redwood heartwood has natural durability and resistance to insects and will last longer outdoors than most woods.

**Grades**

The knotty garden grades of redwood are ideal for outdoor projects. These grades are beautiful, durable and economical.

**Construction Heart/Deck Heart** is all heartwood and contains knots; used for load-bearing applications near the ground. Deck Heart is graded for strength and is available in 2x4 and 2x6.

**Construction Common/Deck Common** contains sapwood and knots; used for decking and above-ground uses. Deck Common is graded for strength and is available in 2x4 and 2x6.

**Merchantable Heart** is all heartwood and contains larger knots than Construction grades, used near the soil.

**Merchantable** contains sapwood and larger knots; used for fence boards, rails and above-ground uses.

**Finishes**

Redwood accepts finishes better than most woods. Some heighten redwood’s natural beauty, bringing out the color and the grain. Others help the wood harmonize or contrast with surrounding structures. Read the labels on all finish products before using.

**No-finish option** Redwood performs better than most woods if left unfinished. This no-maintenance option will result in redwood weather bleaching to a soft driftwood gray.

**Clear water repellent finish** with mildewicide is recommended to stabilize the color at tan.

**Bleaching and weathering stains** produce a permanent driftwood gray effect, a good, low-maintenance option.

**Semitransparent stains** in “redwood” shade tint the wood without hiding the grain.

**Solid-color stains or paints** should be applied over compatible oil-based primers.

**Fasteners**

Use only non-corrosive hardware such as aluminum, stainless steel or top quality hot-dipped galvanized screws or nails. Ordinary nails and screws will cause stains.

For beauty and performance, redwood is naturally superior to other woods. That’s why it’s the first choice for decks, fences and most outdoor projects. Redwood retains its beauty outdoors, shrinks and swells less than other woods and is less likely to warp, split, check or cup. With relatively little or no pitch, redwood is easy to drill, saw and shape. Redwood heartwood has natural durability and resistance to insects and will last longer outdoors than most woods.

**Grades**

The knotty garden grades of redwood are ideal for outdoor projects. These grades are beautiful, durable and economical.

**Construction Heart/Deck Heart** is all heartwood and contains knots; used for load-bearing applications near the ground. Deck Heart is graded for strength and is available in 2x4 and 2x6.

**Construction Common/Deck Common** contains sapwood and knots; used for decking and above-ground uses. Deck Common is graded for strength and is available in 2x4 and 2x6.

**Merchantable Heart** is all heartwood and contains larger knots than Construction grades, used near the soil.

**Merchantable** contains sapwood and larger knots; used for fence boards, rails and above-ground uses.

**Finishes**

Redwood accepts finishes better than most woods. Some heighten redwood’s natural beauty, bringing out the color and the grain. Others help the wood harmonize or contrast with surrounding structures. Read the labels on all finish products before using.

**No-finish option** Redwood performs better than most woods if left unfinished. This no-maintenance option will result in redwood weather bleaching to a soft driftwood gray.

**Clear water repellent finish** with mildewicide is recommended to stabilize the color at tan.

**Bleaching and weathering stains** produce a permanent driftwood gray effect, a good, low-maintenance option.

**Semitransparent stains** in “redwood” shade tint the wood without hiding the grain.

**Solid-color stains or paints** should be applied over compatible oil-based primers.

**Fasteners**

Use only non-corrosive hardware such as aluminum, stainless steel or top quality hot-dipped galvanized screws or nails. Ordinary nails and screws will cause stains.