

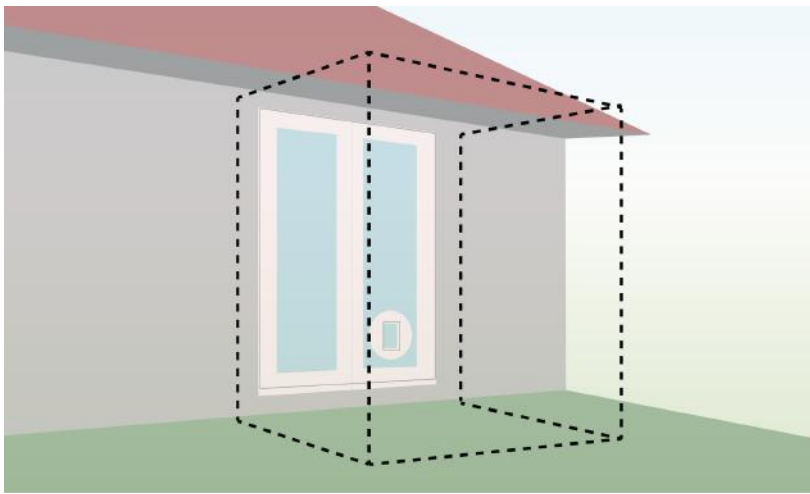
HOW TO BUILD A CATIO



THINGS YOU'LL NEED

- Timber battens (like two-by-fours)
- [Cat proof mesh](#)
- [Staples](#)
- Protective gloves
- Tape measure
- Marker
- Utility square
- Wire cutters
- Hammer
- Hacksaw
- Screws
- Drill
- 3x Hinges
- 1x Latch

INSTRUCTIONS



Step 1: Plan Design

Measure out your space and plan out your enclosure.

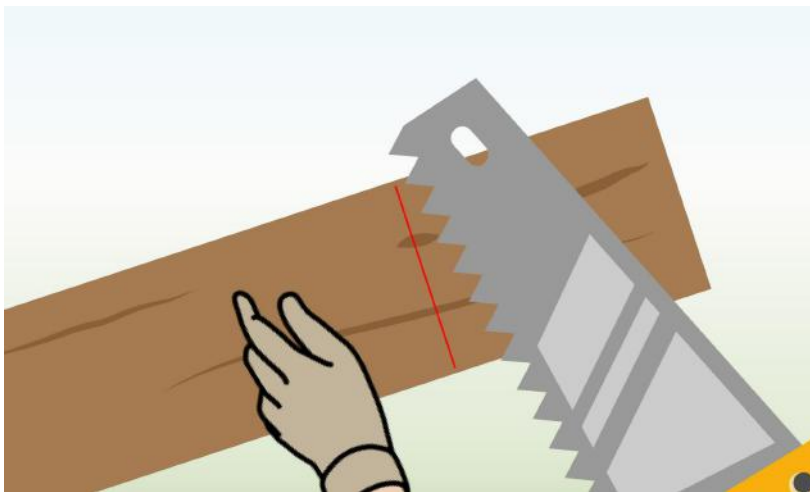
The key aspects to take into account are:

- Allocating a minimum of 1-2 square metres of space per cat. Provide as much vertical space as possible!
- Ensuring free access for your cats through an open window, door or a pet flap.
- If there is no doorway access, you will need to plan out and create a door for you to be able to enter as well.
- Decide on the type of roof you wish to go for: a plastic roofing sheet will provide shelter from the elements and will require an angled construction to allow drainage, while a simple mesh roof will expose your pet to the different weather conditions and can be parallel to the ground.



Step 2: Measure Wood

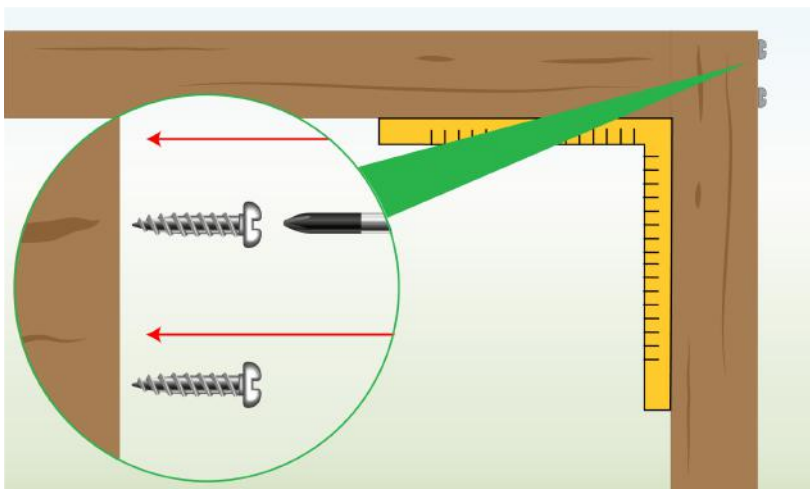
Take your treated timber battens and a tape measure, then measure and mark the pieces you will need to create the constructional frames of the enclosure.



Step 3: Cut Battens

Use a horizontal and steady surface to lay the battens on as you cut them to size with a hacksaw.

Make sure to use protective gear while doing this!



Step 4: Join Battens Together

Use a utility square to make sure your angles are good.

You can even use glue for initial hold, as you join the battens together with wood screws and a drill.

Important: pre-drill and

countersink your joints for a flush and secure finish!

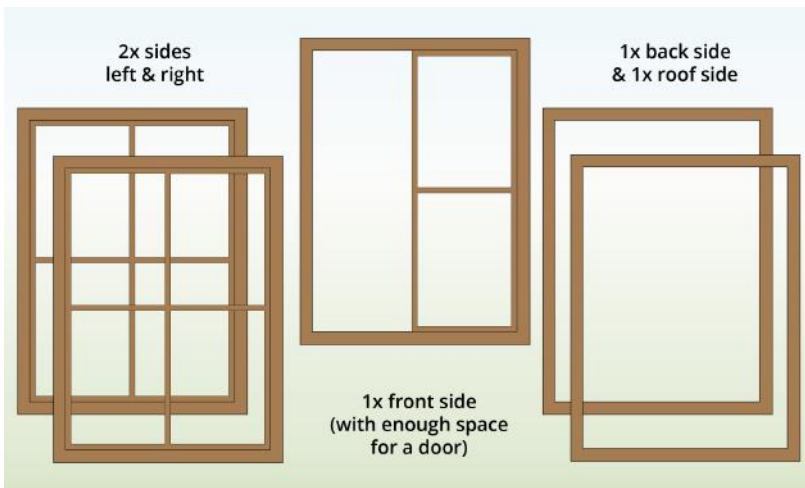
Step 5: Construct Frames

Follow your design plan and step 4 to create all the constructional wooden frames you need.

The backside of the enclosure should be open enough to allow space for the door if the catio has a doorway access.

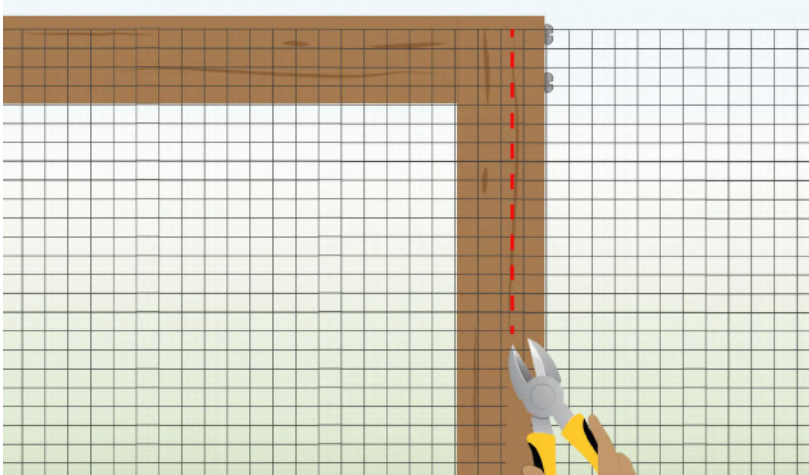
Allow enough space to add a door from the outside if applicable.

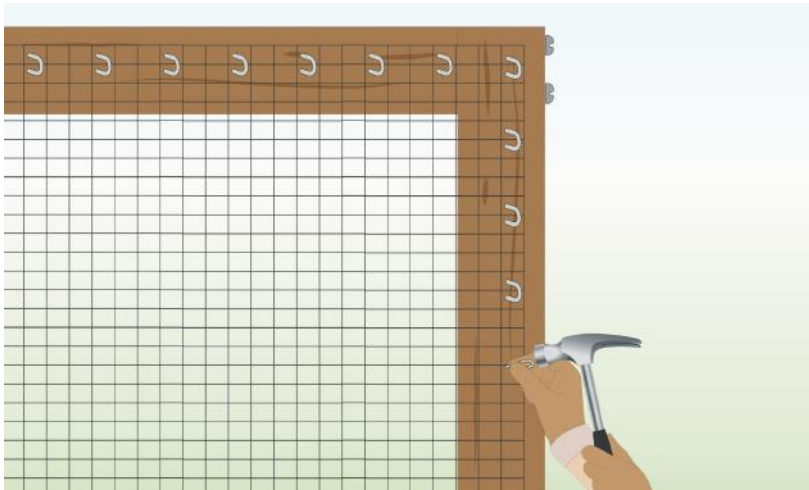
Also create a frame for the roof if you choose to create an open mesh roof.



Step 6: Measure & Cut Mesh

Lay your wire mesh out on the frames and cut along the wood, making sure that the mesh overlaps the wood to allow space for the attachments (staples).

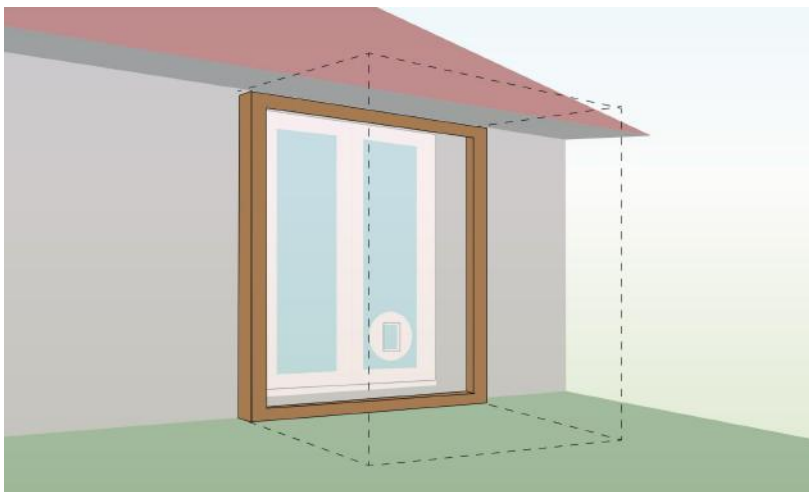




Step 7: Attach Netting to Frames

Use staples at distances of at most 15cm and hammer them into the wood, attaching the netting to the frames.

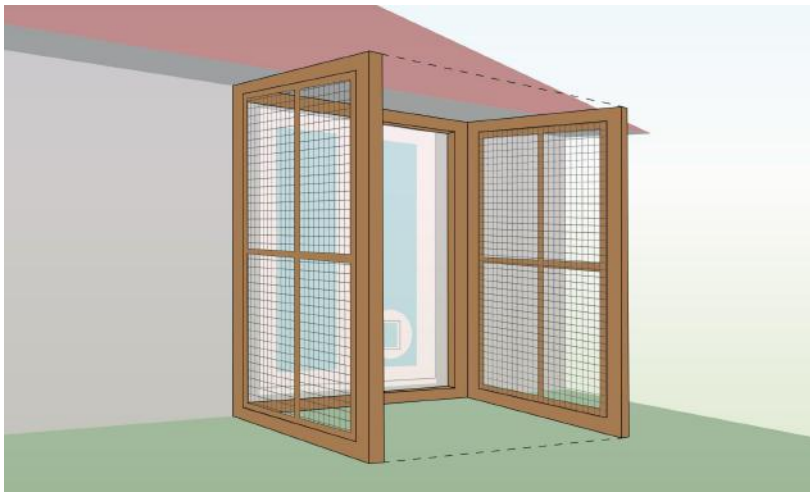
Make sure to leave the back side open to allow free entrance for your pets.



Step 8: Fix Back Frame to Wall

Depending on the construction materials of the house, you may need different wall fixings for this step.

You will need to make sure the open back of the enclosure is flush to the wall and attached securely.

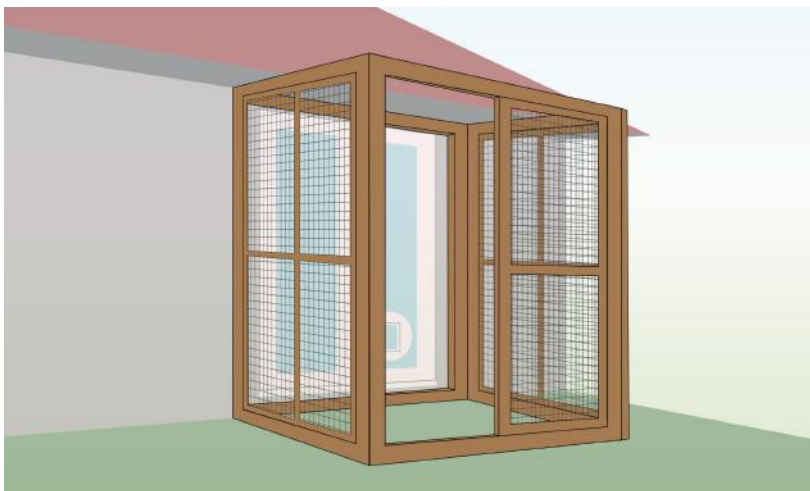


Step 9: Join Side Frames

Attach the two side frames to the back frame with screws in at least 4 points per side.

Important: Make sure the mesh attachments are facing outwards.

Note: Pre-drill and countersink your joints for a flush and secure finish!



Step 10: Attach Front Frame

Follow the previous step to attach the front frame to the two sides.



Step 11a: Construct Roof - Open (Mesh)

Follow steps 7-8 for the roof panel to close off the catio from the top.

Important: If you choose this type of roofing, make sure there is



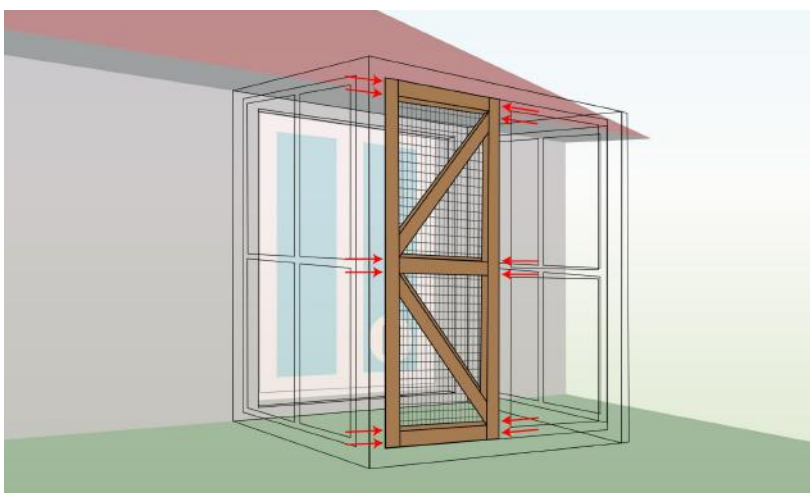
enough shade to protect your felines from UV rays.



Step 11b: Construct Roof - Closed (Plastic)

Attach a batten to the back of the catio, and then several others perpendicularly on top. This will create a good slope for water drainage.

Cut and attach a plastic roofing sheet with roof screws to prevent water from seeping into the enclosure.



Step 12: Create Door (if applicable)

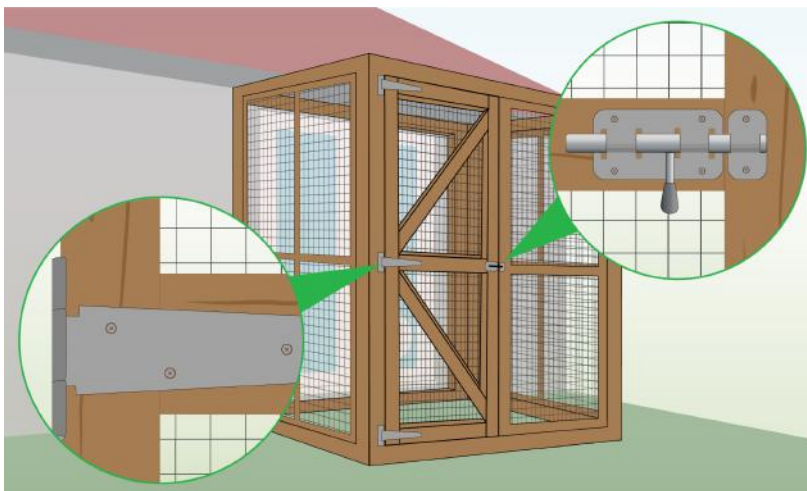
If your catio has no doorway access from the inside, you'll need to add a door to it. Even if it does, you can opt for having two entryways.

Create your door just like the rest of the structural frame, but add



diagonal braces to make it more sturdy and mobile.

Attach mesh to it from the outside to cat-proof it as well.

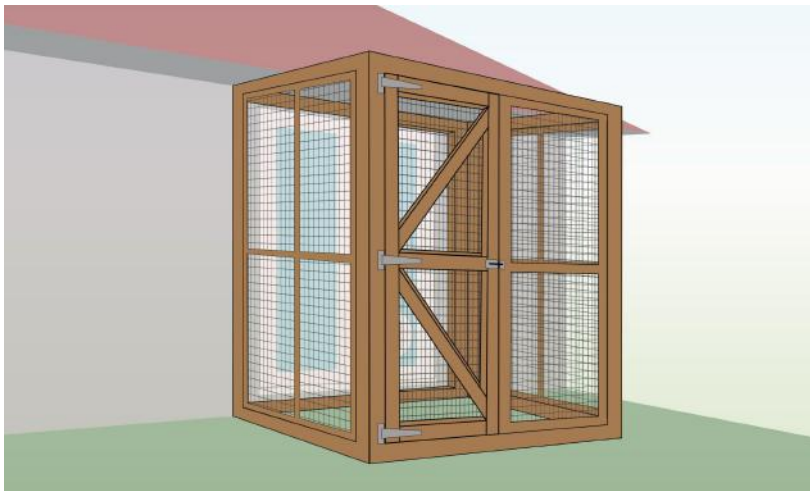


Step 13: Attach Door (if applicable)

Skip this step if you won't be adding a door.

Use screws to attach 3 latches to the wooden frame.

Then screw in a latch as well to keep the door closed.



Step 14: Check for Weak Spots

Your catio should be ready now.

Check all sides and joins to make sure the frames and the mesh are attached properly.

There should be no gaps anywhere for the cats to escape through, the back frame should be flush with the wall and attached securely, and the door should also close well.



Step 15: Furnish Catio

It's time to add enrichment options for your furry friends to fully enjoy the outdoors, while also being safe. Some great options include:

- climbing trees, steps and ladders, shelves;
- hiding spots, beds & hammocks;
- scratching posts ([DIY tutorial here](#));
- feline-friendly plants;

- toys; etc.

Do-s & Don't-s

- don't leave food outside as it may attract strays and wild animals;
- only use materials that are safe for outdoor use to avoid mildew and mould from setting in;
- leave fresh water and a litterbox out to make it as comfortable for your pets as possible;
- avoid using pallets and other materials that are treated with toxic chemicals;
- make sure the materials used are soft and comfortable, free of any splinters and sharp edges;
- avoid gravel and crushed stone as flooring, opt for pavement, wood or grass instead;
- make sure that you create full circle routes with the shelves, climbing trees etc., with multiple ways to get down from, especially if you have more cats;
- add plenty of hiding places and shade, while also making sure the sun can enter the enclosure as felines love to sunbathe.