



# build an outdoor kitchen

Custom-designed patio kitchens are one of the hottest outdoor living trends going. Turn your backyard grilling station into an outdoor cucina, complete with stylish and practical outdoor kitchen cabinetry and counter space





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## SKILL LEVEL:

Intermediate

## MATERIALS:

- 1x1s cut to:
  - one 25" length
  - nine additional lengths to be cut-to-your-measurements (approximately 160" total)
- 3/4" thickness exterior-grade plywood cut to:
  - one 60"x25" panel
- 24" standard base unfinished oak cabinet
- Granite-look laminate cut to:
  - one 60"x26" panel
  - one 26"x1 1/4" strip
  - five scrap lengths to be cut-to-your-measurements (1 1/4"-wide by varying lengths)
- One turned porch post in white
- Galvanized screws
- Contact cement
- Gravel (optional)

## TOOLS:

- Circular saw
- Power drill/screwdriver
- Drill and screw bits
- Hammer
- Utility knife
- Router with laminate-cutting bit
- Fine-grade file
- Palm sander
- Marking pen

### STEP 1: BUILD THE COUNTER

- 1 Saw two corners off one of the 25" ends of the plywood panel, to create a beveled profile.
- 2 Create the illusion of a thicker countertop by using finishing nails to secure the 1x1 strips to the side of the plywood, flush to the top surface. (The 25" straight cut has been itemized in our Materials list, but you'll have to measure the angled edges and remainder of the original 60" lengths, then cut-to-fit the remaining 1x1, before applying).



### STEP 2: APPLY THE COUNTERTOP

- 1 Sand the plywood counter surface as well as the 1x1s to improve adherability.
- 2 Apply contact cement and carefully center, then set the largest laminate piece onto the counter. Apply even pressure, then weigh it down and let it dry per the contact cement's package instructions.
- 3 When the contact cement has fully cured, trim the laminate to the counter size, using a router fitted with a laminate-cutting bit.
- 4 Repeat the laminate-application steps above for each of the side sections (after cutting appropriate laminate strips to fit, always with about 1/4" extra).

No weighting down is required for the sides as they dry.

- 5 Smooth all the routed laminate edges with a fine-grade file, then wipe clean.

### STEP 3: CONSTRUCT THE UNIT

- 1 If needed, cut the porch post to the same height as the base cabinet.
- 2 Set the countertop across the top of the base cabinet so the 25"-wide end with intact corners slightly overhangs the outer edge of the cabinet and abuts the barbecue.
- 3 The far (beveled) edge is now cantilevered. Support it with the porch post. Find the best position for the post by experimenting a bit, then, when satisfied, trace the post top onto the plywood underside with a thin marker.
- 4 Remove the countertop and turn it over. To keep the post in the correct position, frame out its preferred location with extra 1x1s, secured with screws (be careful not to penetrate through to the laminate surface).
- 5 Insert the porch post into the frame, then secure it by screwing through the frame into the post.
- 6 Flip it over and the countertop into position.

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