

# GREAT WALLS OF FIRE



Use chunky sandstone blocks to take your garden up a level!



**A WIDE BOARDWALK PATH** leads the way from the street to your front door. Continue it on to the fire pit to perfectly unify the whole design.

**A**sloping garden is a great opportunity to make a design statement. Using custom-cut sandstone blocks, create terraces to make the space more user friendly. With a helping hand from a crane, the blocks go down in a day – and their unique swirls of colour just can't be found with any other material. Timber and river pebbles add more natural tones, giving you the perfect spot to while away the chilly winter nights warmed by a roaring fire.



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# PROJECT 1 EASY STEPS TO BUILD A BOARDWALK PATH

## Gather your supplies

### • Porch sleepers

200 x 50mm treated pine

### • Decking

135 x 19mm spotted gum

### • Boardwalk frames

200 x 75mm treated pine

### • Posts

90 x 90mm treated pine

### • Roadbase

### • Front steps

150mm high x 400mm wide sandstone blocks in a range of lengths

## You'll also need

Sledgehammer; spirit level; drill; 32mm spade bit; 10mm masonry bit; M10 x 100mm masonry screws; ratchet; countersinking bit; circular saw with fence attachment; 50mm decking screws; spacers; chalkline; 150mm batten screws; post-hole digger; quick-set concrete; wheelbarrow; sand and cement mix; hired crane and grabs; rubber mallet

## Here's how

**STEP 1** Use sledgehammer to break up existing concrete path as required and remove.

**STEP 2** Lay sleepers on the flat as support for boardwalk on front porch. Make the gap between them no more than 400mm and the top of them 25mm lower than the threshold of the door to allow for thickness of decking. Make level, packing under them if required.

**STEP 3** If extending the path off the front porch onto the ground adjacent, use full sleepers running from the porch out to where this level of the boardwalk will end. Support the ends of these sleepers using another sitting on the ground and perpendicular to them.

**STEP 4** Countersink sleepers for masonry screws using a 32mm



STEP 4



STEP 6



STEP 8

spade bit. Space anchors roughly 600mm apart.

**STEP 5** Use 10mm masonry bit to drill holes through sleeper and into concrete for masonry screws.

**STEP 6** Tap masonry screws into holes in sleepers. Screw down and tighten using a ratchet.

**STEP 7** Cut decking to suit width of boardwalk. Place first board near the door and drill countersink holes for screws using a countersinking drill bit. Screw first board to supports using 50mm decking screws.

**STEP 8** Lay out remaining decking boards, using decking spacers to maintain an even gap between them.



STEP 11



STEP 13

Screw last board to sleepers below. Run a chalkline between the screws on the first and last boards and flick to mark a line on the boards.

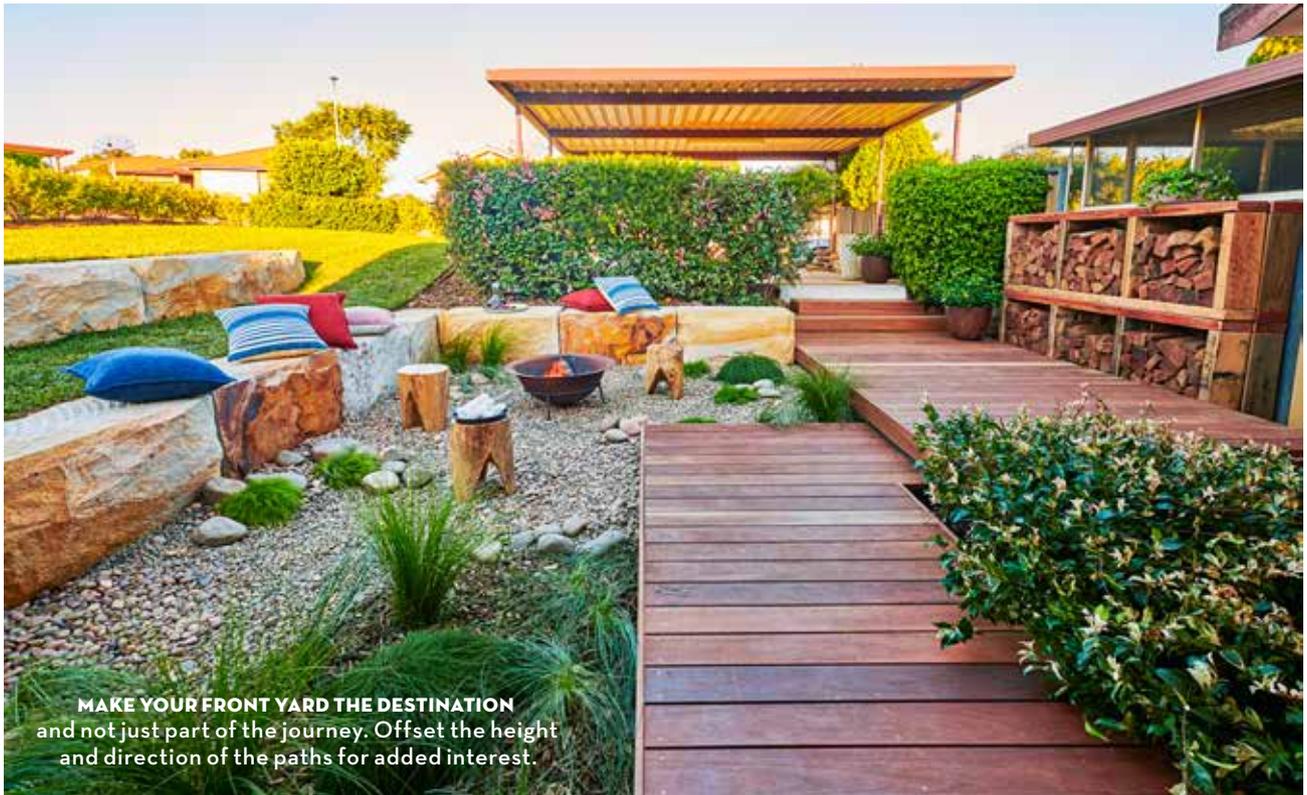
**STEP 9** Using the chalked line as a guide, screw decking down.

**STEP 10** Using a circular saw with fence attachment, cut frame sleepers to suit the height of your steps. A comfortable step height is between 140 and 190mm.

**STEP 11** To create frames for boardwalk steps, cut sleepers to the length required and screw together using 150mm batten screws, putting in 2 screws per joint. Space sleepers on the inside of the frame evenly, but no more than 400mm apart.

**STEP 12** One end of the frame will sit on the decking already laid on the porch. At the other end, use a post-hole digger to dig a 500mm-deep hole near where each corner of the frame will sit.

**STEP 13** Place frame in position. Make level, packing under it as



**MAKE YOUR FRONT YARD THE DESTINATION**  
and not just part of the journey. Offset the height  
and direction of the paths for added interest.

required. Cut a 40mm-deep notch in one end of a post. Make the height of notch to suit the sleepers on your boardwalk frame. Place the post in the hole so the notch fits over the sleeper and screw through post into sleeper to hold.

**STEP 14** Half fill post holes with water, then pour in quick-set concrete. Use a rod to thoroughly mix in the concrete. Repeat until the holes are filled.

**STEP 15** If your boardwalk frames are sitting above the concrete path, screw a block to the frame that is sitting on the path. To ensure it stays in place, fix another block to the path then screw the two together.

**STEP 16** Repeat Steps 11 to 14 to build and install next frame for your boardwalk steps. Where this frame sits on the previous one, place a length of decking under it so it sits at the correct height.

**STEP 17** Cut and lay decking to the boardwalk as you did for the front porch. Also fit a board along the face of each step flush with the top of the boards.

**STEP 18** Where your boardwalk path meets the front boundary, lay roadbase level with the decking. Mix



sand and cement in a wheelbarrow, then shovel on the roadbase. Using hired crane and grabs, lift sandstone blocks onto sand and cement mix. Check for level and adjust using a rubber mallet as required.

**STEP 19** Leave decking to weather for about 4 weeks, then wash it using a deck cleaner. When it's dry, apply 2 coats of decking oil following instructions.



## PROJECT 2 **EASY STEPS TO BUILD ROCK TERRACES**



**STEP 2**



**STEP 4**



**STEP 3**



**STEP 5**

### Gather your supplies

- 500 x 500mm sandstone blocks of various lengths
- Roadbase
- Turf underlay
- Soft-leaf buffalo turf

### You'll also need

Shovel; wheelbarrow; spirit level; plate compactor (hired); crane and grabs (hired); crowbar; soil spreader or rake

### Here's how

**STEP 1** Plan your design and work out the heights and positions of all your elements. If you're including a boardwalk, as here, the governing level will be the height of the door threshold. Make the top of your first row of blocks sit about 450mm above the surrounding ground. Set

the second row 1.4m back from the first and 450mm higher than it.

**STEP 2** Remove garden beds and excavate the ground to prepare for laying both levels of sandstone blocks. Where the blocks will sit, excavate trenches 50mm deep.

**STEP 3** Fill trenches with roadbase and make it level. Slightly overfill

trenches as they will settle when compacted.

**STEP 4** Use hired plate compactor to compact roadbase in trench. Check level to make sure it suits the overall levels of your design.

**STEP 5** Use hired crane and grabs to lift your sandstone blocks into position. If they need slight

SET BACK THE second row of blocks to maximise their visual impact.



**STEP 6**



**STEP 7**



**STEP 8**

movement after placement, use a crowbar to lever them into place.

**STEP 6** Lay upper row of blocks. If your ground is slightly loose or unstable, backfill behind lower row first to prevent the soil from collapsing under the weight of the upper row.

**STEP 7** If not done already, backfill behind blocks with old soil. Add quality turf underlay to a depth of about 10cm, finishing about 3cm

from top of blocks so eventually turf and blocks are level. Level out top soil with a soil spreader or flat side of rake.

**STEP 8** Roll out turf behind blocks first. Stagger joints on each row of turf and butt joints together snugly. Water in well daily, until you feel the roots have gripped when you try to lift turf. Water less frequently once roots have taken hold for the next 4-6 weeks, then as needed. ■

### Stockists

**ANL [anscape.com.au](http://anscape.com.au)** All sandstone blocks, POA. River gravel, \$9.50/20kg. Roadbase, \$65/ton. Turf underlay, \$58/cubic metre. 200 x 100mm hardwood sleepers, \$45/2.4m. Rapid set concrete, \$10/20kg. Sand & Cement mix, \$7.50/20kg. **Bunnings [bunnings.com.au](http://bunnings.com.au)** 200 x 50mm x 2.4m treated pine sleepers, \$13.77. 200 x 75mm x 2.4m treated pine sleepers, \$19.16. 135 x 19mm spotted gum decking, \$12/m. 90 x 90mm x 2.4m treated pine post, \$48.35. M10 x 100mm masonry screw, \$3.12. 50mm stainless steel decking screws, \$81/pk1000. 4mm decking spacers, \$9.50/pk100. 150mm galvanised batten screws, \$23/pk50.