



More saving. More doing.™

# build a checkerboard

A giant lawn sized checkerboard transforms the classic game of strategy into a major back yard attraction

**1** Checkerboard: Identify 10-foot-square portion of back yard, marking off with stakes and a mason's line. Remove sod and excavate soil to depth of 6 inches, plus thickness of pavers. Use straightedge to check that soil bed is flat, adding or removing soil where needed. Use plate compactor to compact soil. Lay landscape fabric inside excavation site and up edges, overlapping if necessary.

**2** Spread gravel to depth of 2 inches, raking, then tamping with plate compactor. Repeat, so total gravel depth is 4 inches. Shovel bedding sand over top and rake to 1-inch thickness. Even out surface with a 2x4.

**3** Embed first brick-red paver in sand by tapping with rubber mallet. Repeat, laying gray paver beside first paver with 4-inch space in between. Repeat, alternating colors for row of eight. Add next row, spacing 4 inches between rows, until eight-row by eight-row board is complete.

**4** Fill gaps between squares with soil; compact with hoe. Add water to help compact. When soil is just below level with stones, scatter grass seeds, then topdress per package instructions; tamp gently and water. Water regularly. (Or opt for pea gravel instead of grass.)

**5** Checker pieces: Create 1-foot-diameter circle template, trace onto MDF and cut out 48 discs. Glue two discs together, clamping down until dry. Sand edges. Paint as desired. Drill small hole into each piece, then screw in fence top finials.

**TIP** Create extra pieces, omitting fence posts, to use for stacking under kings.



## MATERIALS

- 32 1-square-foot pavers of a light color
- 32 1-square-foot pavers of a contrasting darker color
- \*24 screw-in finials - (2 sets of 12 finials. Use one finial style for each set of pieces)
- Paint (Behr®'s exterior latex; 2 contrasting colors. Use one color for each set of pieces.)
- Several sheets of 1-inch-thick MDF
- Gravel
- Bedding sand
- 2x4 lumber
- Soil

## TOOLS

- Jigsaw
- Power drill
- Power sander & sandpaper
- Hoe
- Square shovel
- Wood glue
- Landscape fabric
- 8-foot straightedge
- Rubber mallet
- Paintbrush
- Mason's line
- Plate compactor (from The Home Depot Tool Rental Center)

## SKILL LEVEL

Intermediate

### may we suggest...

Add flair and style to your checkerboard with these decorative pebbles. Instead of grass, spread a layer of pebbles between pavers (as shown in the checkerboard on the front of this card). These attractive stones can also be used on paths, patios and driveways for a low-maintenance and economical alternative to grass or paving.



**Vigoro® Pebbles**  
(Product may vary by market)

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