

# Building a Catio

This playbook provides a step-by-step guide to constructing a catio, an outdoor enclosure that allows your cat to enjoy the outdoors safely.

## Step 1: **Design Planning**

Decide on the size, location, and design of the catio. Consider factors such as sunlight, accessibility, and view from your home. Sketch the design, listing all materials and measurements required.

## Step 2: **Materials Gathering**

Gather all necessary materials and tools based on your design plan. This will likely include wood for the frame, wire mesh, screws, nails, a hammer, saw, staple gun, and hinges for doors.

## Step 3: **Site Preparation**

Prepare the site where the catio will be built. Clear the area of debris, level the ground if necessary, and ensure a stable foundation for the structure.

## Step 4: **Frame Construction**

Build the wooden frame according to the dimensions in your design. Ensure the frame is sturdy and square. The frame will be the supporting structure for the mesh walls.

## Step 5: **Mesh Attachment**

Attach wire mesh to the frame using the staple gun, ensuring that there are no gaps or loose areas where a cat could potentially escape.

## Step 6: **Roof and Door**

Construct and attach a roof to protect the catio from the elements, and install a door with hinges for easy access and maintenance.

## Step 7: **Safety Check**

Inspect the catio thoroughly for any potential hazards such as sharp edges, loose materials, or gaps. Correct any issues before introducing your cat to the enclosure.

## Step 8: **Finishing Touches**

Add shelves, ramps, or perches for the cat to climb and rest on. Introduce cat-safe plants and toys to enrich the environment.

# **General Notes**

## **Weatherproofing**

Consider weatherproofing the catio to extend its longevity. Use weather-resistant materials and a sloped design for the roof to ensure water drainage.

## **Local Regulations**

Before beginning construction, check local regulations and homeowners association rules to ensure compliance with any catio-building restrictions.

