

Lattice screen



Build a portable, multipurpose lattice screen for your garden.

With its delicate crisscross design, lattice adds a pleasant, light touch to the garden scene.

A portable screen is useful for hiding ugly views or providing instant privacy, wherever you need it. You can move the screen around the garden to change views as the seasons change, or bring it up close to the house to create a secluded outdoor living zone. Use it to define garden spaces, dress up ugly sheds, and hide or enhance boring walls and fences.

A screen also lets you take advantage of a sunny aspect to grow climbing annuals such as sweet peas, or maybe a few trailing plants in wall baskets.

Traditionally, lattice is made from lightweight strips of timber, but now it's also available in easy-care fibre-cement material. Offering good weather resistance, fibre-cement lattice has the advantage of being flat and having no joints, so you can paint it with a roller. Like timber lattice, it's available in either square or diamond patterns.

You'll need:

- 2 panels of 2400 x 900mm fibre-cement lattice
- 5 x 2.5m lengths of treated-pine lattice frame
- 2 x 900mm lengths of 100 x 50mm timber for the feet
- 2 plastic post knobs for the top
- 4 metal corner brackets
- 4 galvanised 100 x 10mm bolts and washers
- 2 metal handles
- Screws, hammer and nails

Here's how:

1. Lay the lattice screens side-by-side on a flat surface. Cut lengths of lattice frame to fit around the top, bottom and sides of the screen, making the sidepieces about 20cm longer so they act as legs.

2. Assemble the frame elements around the two panels of lattice, and secure the joints with nails. For additional stability, screw on metal brackets at each corner.



3. To hold the lattice in place within the frame, drive in the screws on an angle all the way around. Then to add strength to the whole structure, fit an extra piece of framing timber across the middle of the screen. This will act as a brace, while hiding the joint where the two pieces of lattice meet on the front side. Attach a handle to the upright member on each side of the frame, and at a height that will make it easy even for the kids to move.

4. To create a pair of sturdy feet for the screen, cut a couple of 900mm lengths of 100 x 50mm timber, sawing the upper corners at an angle as shown below. Attach these to the frame using galvanised bolts and washers.



5. As a finishing touch, add two post knobs to the top corners. These come in lightweight plastic with an attaching clip. You could also screw decorative veranda brackets to the top of the frame. These items are available in a variety of materials and designs from most hardware stores.