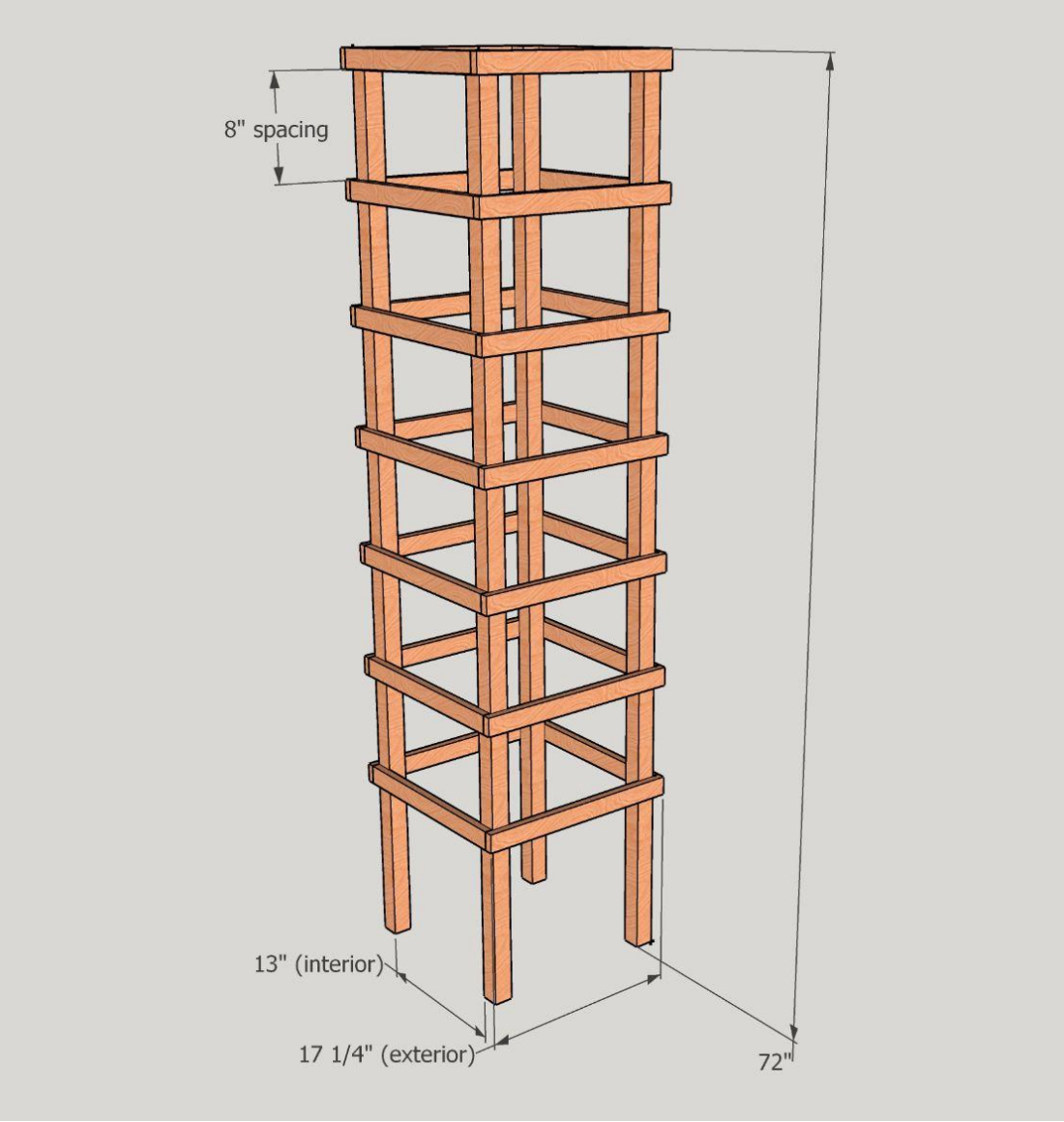
Tomato Cage

Plans by The Handyman's Daughter™

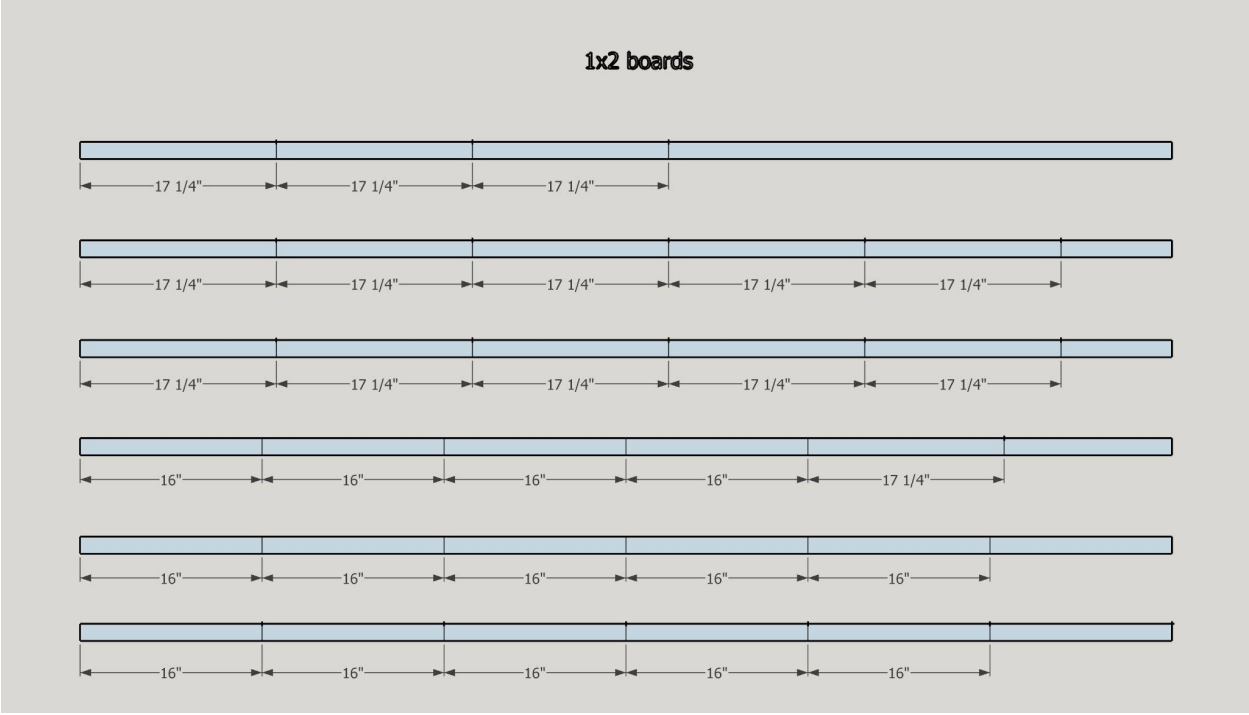


Supplies Needed for DIY Tomato Cage

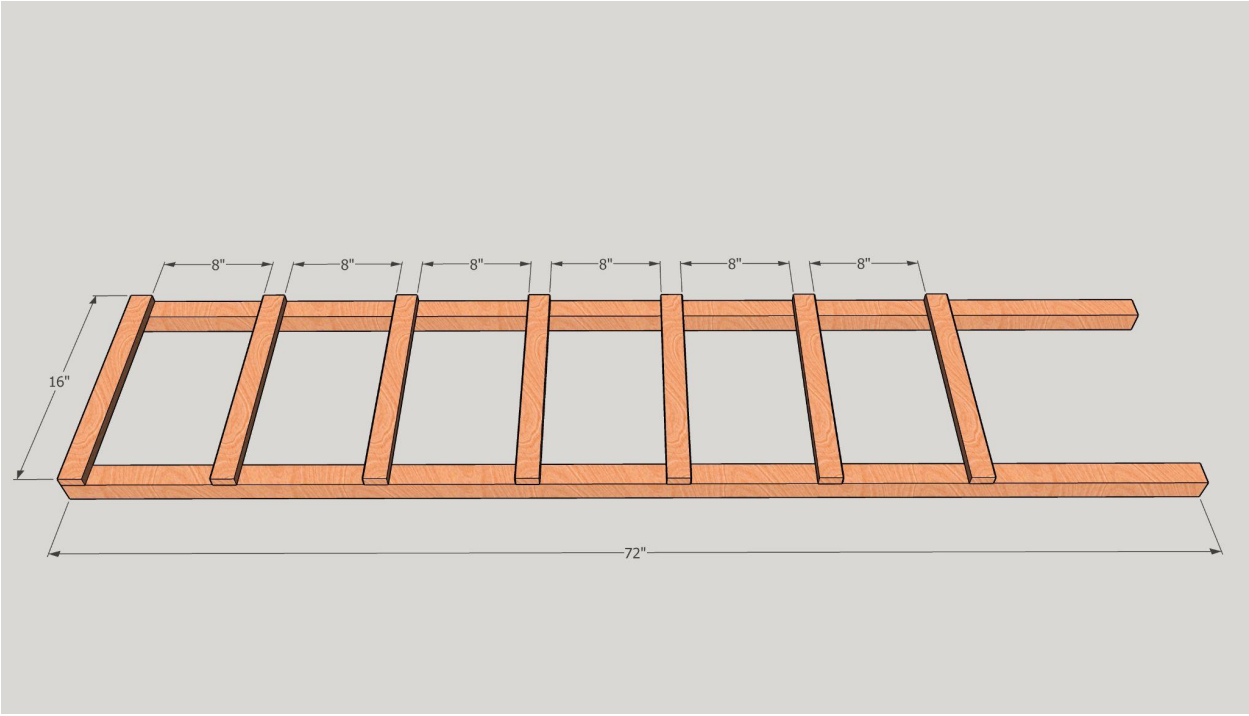
- Four 2x2 boards
    - Cedar is best, but any wood will do. If you're growing determinate tomatoes that only grow up to four feet tall, you can cut two 2x2 boards in half instead.
- Six 1x2 boards
    - I cut three 1x4 cedar boards in half down the middle at the table saw, since that's what I had on hand. You could even use cedar fence pickets and cut them into thin strips to save money!
- Miter saw or circular saw
    - You could also cut these by hand with a miter box!
- Exterior wood glue
- Brad nailer and 1 1/4" brad nails
    - You could also use 1 1/4" exterior wood screws, although assembly will take a little longer.
- Speed square
- Clamps
- Exterior paint or stain (optional)

DIY Tomato Cage Instructions

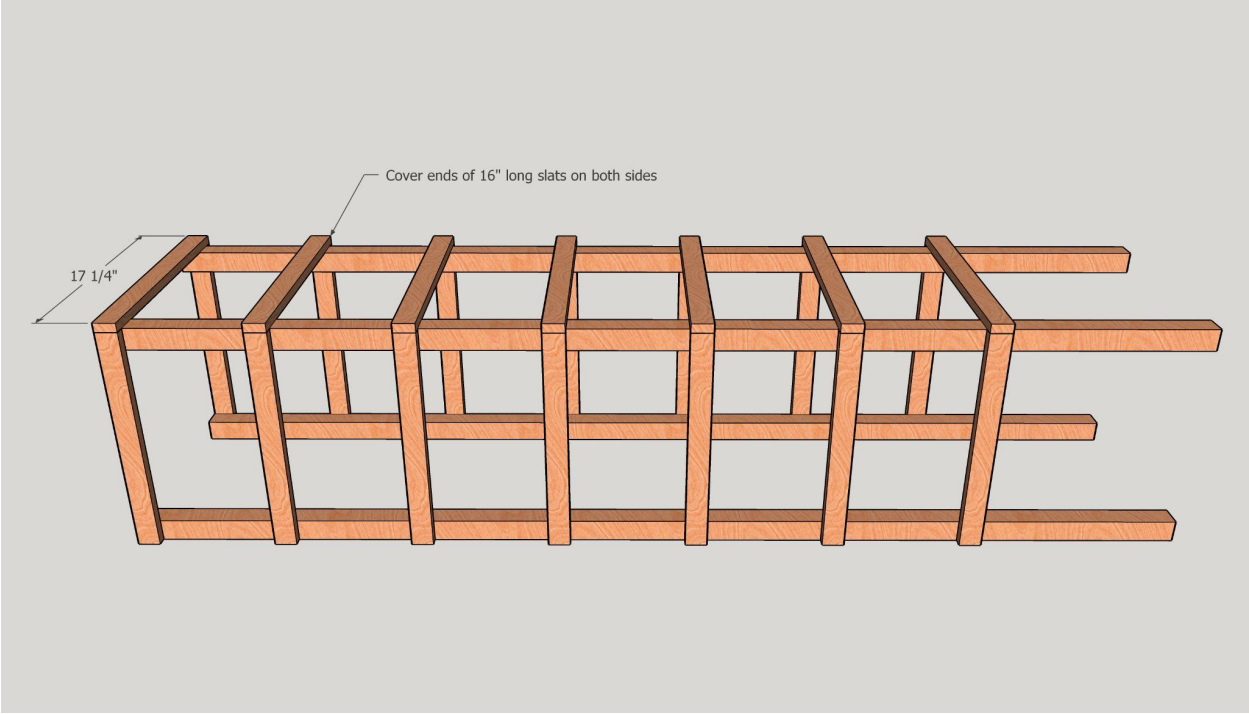
- ☐ Cut the 2x2 boards down to 6 feet long. You could leave them at eight feet if you plan to bury the first foot or so into the ground. Eight feet may be a little too tall for a freestanding cage.
- ☐ Cut three 1x2 boards down into fourteen 16” long pieces.
    - ☐ Note that the leftover piece from each board will be slightly shorter than 16”. Make sure to discard this piece or set it aside so you don’t mix it up and accidentally use it on your project.
    - ☐ If you don’t want to waste materials, you can cut each piece to 15 ¾” instead for a slighter smaller cage.
- ☐ Cut three 1x2 boards down into fourteen 17 ¼” long pieces.
- ☐ If your tomato cage is taller than six feet, you’ll need to cut two 16” and two 17 ¼” pieces for each additional eight inches of height.



- ☐ Cut two 8” long spacer blocks from the leftover material.
- ☐ Attach the top slat to the top of the legs with exterior wood glue and 1 ¼” brad nails or exterior wood screws.
    - ☐ Make sure the top slat is flush with the top AND side of the legs, and square to each other.
- ☐ Place the spacer blocks under the first slat, then line up the second slat with the spacers.
- ☐ Make sure the ends of the slat are flush with the sides of the legs, then attach it to the legs with exterior wood glue and 1 ¼” brad nails or exterior wood screws.
- ☐ Remove the spacer blocks and repeat the process down the length of the legs until you’ve attached all seven slats.
- ☐ Repeat the process for the second set of legs.



- ☐ Set the two sets of legs on edge, with the slats facing out. Clamps can help hold the legs upright while you work.
- ☐ Line up the first 17 ¼” slat with the edges of the top slats on either side, as well as the top of the legs. This slat should completely cover the cut ends of the 16” slats, with the top and bottom edge lining up exactly.
- ☐ Apply wood glue to the ends of the 16” slats and the legs where the slat will intersect.
- ☐ Attach the first slat with brad nails or 1 ¼” exterior wood screws through the leg. Avoid the end of the slat, or the wood could split!
- ☐ Continue working down the length of the cage, attaching the slats the same way. If your legs are slightly bowed inward, you can hold them apart with a spreading clamp while you attach the slat.
- ☐ Flip the cage over and repeat for the other side.



- ☐ Stand the tomato cage up and place it over your plant. It should fit perfectly over a 10 gallon grow bag or 16” diameter pot.
- ☐ If you’re using this tomato cage in a raised bed or regular garden bed, I recommend burying the first foot of the legs into the soil for more stability.
- ☐ Enjoy your better, sturdier tomato cage for years to come!

Show off your build! Email me at hello@thehandymansdaughter.com, or tag me with a photo on Instagram. I’d love to see it!

Were these free woodworking plans helpful? Show your support and buy me a cup of coffee!