

Building Your Own Backstop

Sometimes it's hard to find a safe and secure place to shoot. But you can make your own safe backstop without spending much money. Follow these steps and you'll see that building your own backstop is as easy as 1, 2, 3!

Step 1: Location

You will need to scout the area carefully. Make sure you choose a secure location away from roads, outbuildings, or homes of any kind. Be absolutely certain no people or animals are or could possibly be downrange. For any small-bore or muzzleloader activity, make sure you contain a downrange distance of at least 1 mile behind the backstop free of the areas mentioned above.

Step 2: Materials

The following materials will construct a backstop approximately 4 feet wide and 5 feet tall. You can adjust the size of the backstop according to the materials you use. You will need six to eight railroad cross ties. Make sure the cross ties are sturdy and in relatively sound condition. You will also need four cinder blocks and two 8-foot fence T-posts.

Step 3: Construction

Begin by finding a relatively level section in the area you located in step 1. Place the cinder blocks end to end with the hole-sides down. Remove the back cinder blocks and use a shovel to remove about 1 inch of dirt, then replace the cinder blocks. This will give the needed offset once you start stacking the cross ties.

The following photos show how to construct your backstop.

When you're done, you'll be ready to begin shooting. We recommend you use this backstop only for small-bore and muzzleloader shooting. Lighter projectiles such as pellets and BBs may bounce off the hard surface.

As always, stay safe and have fun!



Figure 1. Space the left and right cinder blocks according to the width of the backstop you are constructing.



Figure 2. Next, drive the T-posts into the back left and right cinder blocks. These T-posts provide support for the cross ties as they are stacked.



Figure 3. The T-posts should be level with the back of the top layer of cross ties once the structure has been constructed. This is to prevent any ricochet from a projectile striking the metal of the T-post.



Figure 4. Cut the cross ties in half and stack them two deep with the long side facing out. As you are stacking the cross ties, make sure the seams of the back layer are offset from the front layer. This will prevent a projectile from passing through the backstop.



Figure 5. Once completed, the backstop should not be leaning or unstable.

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