

Measure-First Worksheet

Use this before you buy. A product can fit its listing dimensions and still fail at the gate, the turn, the faucet, or the storage spot. Write the real measurements down first.

01 Project snapshot

Project _____ Date _____

Main problem _____ Budget _____

☐ I will test a no-purchase fix before buying.

☐ I need a renter-friendly / no-drill option.

02 Draw the route you actually use

Mark the faucet, gate, tightest turn, steps or slope, work area, and the place where the item will live. The sketch does not need to be to scale.

faucet							
				work area			
storage zone							gate / door

03 Measure the constraints

Check	My measurement	What it changes
Narrowest gate or path		Rules out items that cannot pass
Tightest turn / steps		Changes wheels, hose route, and dumping
Faucet to farthest point		Changes hose length and pressure needs
Storage width x depth x height		Sets the real footprint
Wall support / drill permission		Separates wall, freestanding, and no-buy
Sun, shade, water, power, drainage		Changes plants, lights, and maintenance

Measure-First Worksheet

Do not start with a product category. Start with the job, the route, and the constraint that would make the purchase annoying every week.

04 Choose the first problem to solve

If your problem is...	Start by checking...	Skip the purchase when...
Watering	faucet, route, hose length	a hanger or hand coil is enough
Hauling	gate, turn, slope, load	tote, rental, borrow, or split loads work
Storage	tool length, access, damp	two small spots beat one blocked shed
Privacy	height, sight line, wind	the screen would block light or a route
Lighting	anchors, span, power, steps	cord routing or support is uncertain
Raised bed	footprint, reach, soil, drainage	a planter or ground bed fits better

05 Before you buy

- ☐ I measured the real route, including the narrowest point.
 ☐ I checked the item at its widest, deepest, and tallest points.
- ☐ I know what will support the weight and the changing pull.
 ☐ I know how the item will drain, dry, or move before freezing weather.
- ☐ I checked the product page for dimensions, parts, and current terms.
 ☐ I wrote down the cheaper or no-purchase option.

06 My next action

- ☐ Buy
 ☐ Borrow / rent
 ☐ Fix first
 ☐ Wait and measure again

The one fact that decides this:

Notes / questions for the product page:

Small-yard rule: If the route, support, storage, or maintenance plan is still unclear, waiting is a valid decision. A smaller or simpler setup is often easier to live with than a larger product that barely fits.