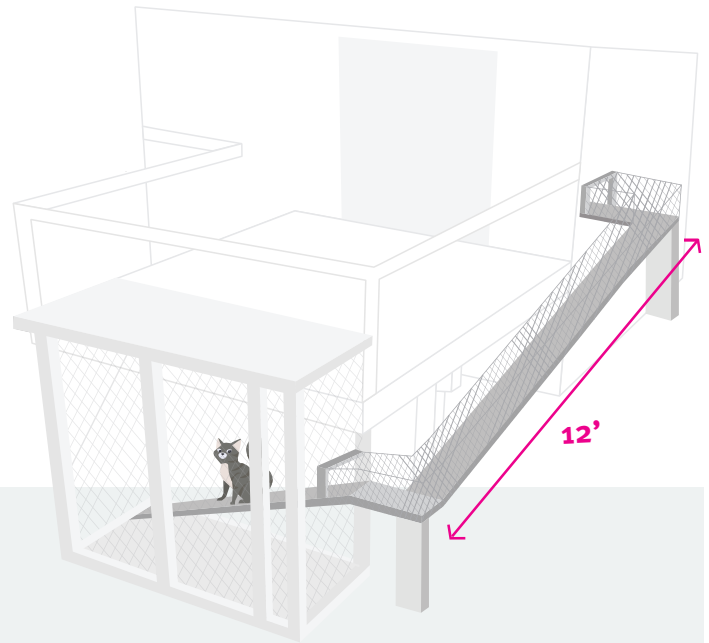


# DIY CATIO TUNNEL

Depending on the design of your space, it may not be possible for the catio to fit directly against the house where there is a window opening. In that event, add a tunnel to connect a stand alone catio to your house using the steps below.

## SHOPPING LIST

- ☐ **2X4 CEDAR BOARDS** to support the tunnel
- ☐ **1X2 CEDAR BOARDS** for the tunnel base
- ☐ **5/8 X 6 INCH CEDAR DECK BOARDS** for the tunnel base
- ☐ **1X1 WIRE MESH** stainless steel or galvanized to avoid weather damage
- ☐ **3 1/2 INCH DECK SCREWS**
- ☐ **1 1/2 INCH DECK SCREWS**
- ☐ **3/4 INCH OR LONGER STAPLES**
- ☐ **WIRE/TIN SNIPS** to cut mesh to correct size
- ☐ **CIRCULAR SAW and/or TABLE SAW**
- ☐ **ELECTRIC DRILL**
- ☐ **STAPLE GUN**



If you do not have a window opening but still want to create an outdoor catio paradise for your cat, consider the addition of a cat door. Please hire a qualified contractor to inspect the proposed location(s) of the pet door and to complete installation. Already have a cat door? Perfect! Use this as your tunnel entrance.



When choosing wood: make it **cedar**! Cedar wood is extremely durable, and holds up well to outdoor weather conditions. Also, the wood's natural oils help to deter insect damage and rotting.

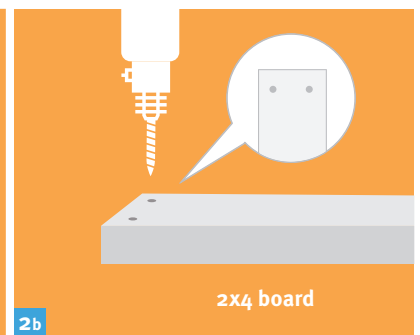
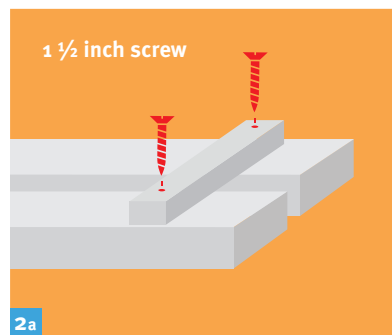
**All measurements provided below are included as an example! Plans can be modified for your existing space. Additionally, houses are not always straight, square, or level. Adjust the catio dimensions to fit the "personality" of your house.**

## STEPS TO ASSEMBLE:

**1.** To start building your tunnel, measure out the distance needed from the window that will be used as a catio entrance to your catio.

**2.** Using cedar deck boards cut to size, create a walkway from the house entrance to your catio. Use **1x2** inch pieces of cedar, cut to 11 inches, to create a wider platform and add better footholds for the cat. To attach these pieces of wood to the deck boards, secure using 2, **1 1/2** inch screws evenly spaced on each board.

If your tunnel needs to be longer than a standard deck board, or for attaching the ramps, attach boards end to end using pocket holes. To do this, drill 2 pilot holes evenly spaced on the end of one of your boards.



## STEPS TO ASSEMBLE (CONT-ED):

Next, insert your screw into the pilot hole, slowly lowering the drill towards the board at an angle as you do. The drill should almost touch the wood. Drill the screw at an angle into the pocket hole and into the next board, securing the two deck boards together. If it seems wobbly, add more screws as needed, going from the opposite direction.

**3.** Use **2x4** as vertical supports to make sure your tunnel does not bend! Drill two pilot holes into your tunnel and attach these using **3 ½** inch screws.

**4.** Use your **1x1** mesh to create an escape proof tunnel for your cats to safely arrive at their catio. Attach the mesh to the plywood platform with staples.

**5.** Make your support brackets using **2x4** boards cut to size. Two boards have even cuts, while the third has 45-degree angle cut on each end. Drill 2 pilot holes, evenly spaced on the end of the **2x4**. Use **3 ½** inch screws to create your “triangle brackets”.

**6.** Attach one end of your tunnel to the window or cat door using one of the support brackets and **3 ½** inch screws. Make sure to attach your tunnel to a stud (*vertical support in your wall*) on the exterior wall of the house.

**7.** Attach the other end of your tunnel to the catio using your 2nd support bracket. Attach this to your “catio entrance” using **3 ½** inch screws. Make sure that there are no gaps in the mesh for your cat to escape and to prevent your cat from getting hurt!

