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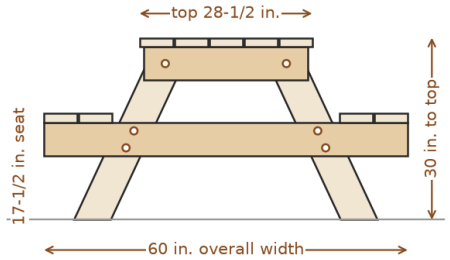
6-Ft Picnic Table: Printable Plan

Materials list, cut list, key steps, and diagrams. Free to print and use.

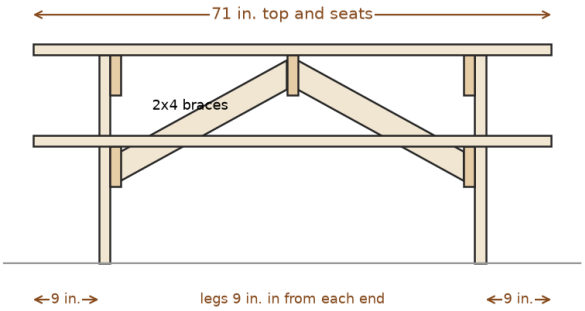
Not engineered or load-tested. No engineer has reviewed this plan. Shed & Bench worked out the dimensions and checked that the parts fit together, but strength depends on your lumber, fasteners, and assembly. Check every bolt and screw before anyone sits on it, and recheck them every season. Seating counts are our estimates, not rated capacities.

At a glance: 71 in. long; top 28-1/2 in. wide (five 2x6s, 1/4 in. gaps) at 30 in. high; seats 17-1/2 in. high; 60 in. wide overall; legs 2x6 at 25° from vertical; 2x4 braces. Lumber: 5 2x6 x 12 ft, 3 2x6 x 8 ft, 1 2x4 x 8 ft; 12 carriage bolts and about 62 screws. All sizes are actual lumber sizes. Full instructions and sources: shedandbench.com/picnic-table-plans/

End view



Side view



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Overall dimensions

Materials list

Lumber

- 5 – 2x6 x 12 ft (top boards, seat boards, seat supports)
- 3 – 2x6 x 8 ft, rated Ground Contact if you use treated lumber (seat supports, legs, end top supports, center support)
- 1 – 2x4 x 8 ft (braces)

Hardware

- 12 carriage bolts, 3/8 x 3-1/2 in., hot-dip galvanized, each with a washer and nut (1 at each leg-to-top-support joint and 2 at each leg-to-seat-support joint)
- About 75 exterior screws, 3 in., rated for treated lumber (the plan uses 62)
- Optional: exterior stain or sealer, and 120-grit sandpaper

A note on cost: we don't print a total, because lumber prices change by region and by week. Price the lumber and hardware list at your local store before you start.

Cut list

All sizes are actual dimensions (a 2x6 is 1-1/2 x 5-1/2 in.; a 2x4 is 1-1/2 x 3-1/2 in.).

Part	Material	Qty	Length / size	Notes
Top boards	2x6	5	71 in.	1/4 in. gaps; ends square
Seat boards	2x6	4	71 in.	Two per side
Legs	2x6	4	31-7/16 in. along each edge	Both ends cut at 25°, parallel
Top supports (ends)	2x6	2	27 in.	On edge; clip bottom corners 45° (optional)
Center support	2x6	1	27 in.	Same as the top supports
Seat supports	2x6	2	60 in.	On edge; clip bottom corners 45° (optional)
Braces	2x4	2	25-15/16 in. along each edge	Both ends cut at about 29°, parallel; check against your assembly

How to cut the angles: The legs have parallel 25° cuts at both ends, so each leg is a long parallelogram. Set your saw or speed square to 25°, cut one end, measure 31-7/16 in. along an edge, and cut the other end at the same angle, parallel to the first. Each leg needs about 34 in. of board. The braces work the same way at about 29° (25-15/16 in. along each edge, about 27-7/8 in. of board). Cut the braces a little long and trim them to fit once the table is standing.

Cutting diagram: which parts come from which board

Board	Cut from it
2x6 x 12 ft #1	top boards (71 in.) + top boards (71 in.)
2x6 x 12 ft #2	top boards (71 in.) + top boards (71 in.)
2x6 x 12 ft #3	top boards (71 in.) + seat boards (71 in.)
2x6 x 12 ft #4	seat boards (71 in.) + seat boards (71 in.)
2x6 x 12 ft #5	seat boards (71 in.) + seat supports (60 in.)
2x6 x 8 ft #6	seat supports (60 in.) + legs (34 in.)
2x6 x 8 ft #7	legs (34 in.) + legs (34 in.) + top supports (ends) (27 in.)
2x6 x 8 ft #8	legs (34 in.) + top supports (ends) (27 in.) + center support (27 in.)
2x4 x 8 ft #1	braces (27-7/8 in.) + braces (27-7/8 in.)

Tight fit on board #7: board #7 is a tight fit (two 34 in. leg blanks and a 27 in. support on one 8-ft 2x6, with about 1/4 in. left after kerfs and trim). If your board is short or the ends aren't square, use the spare 8-ft 2x6.

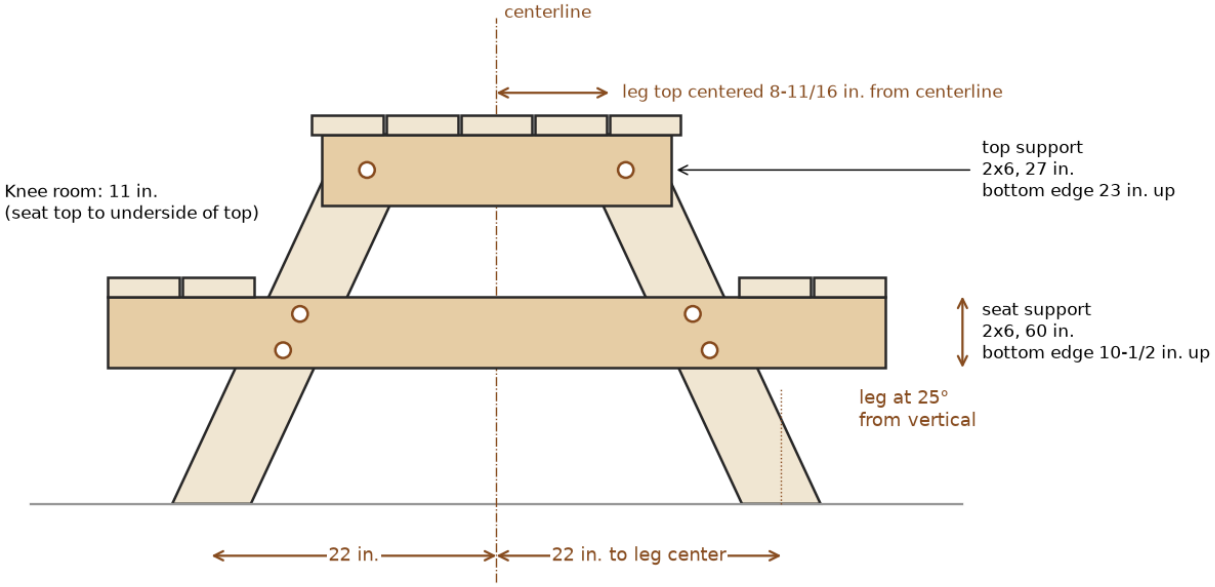
Key steps

1. **Cut and prep.** Cut nine 71 in. top and seat boards from the 12-ft boards; cut four legs (31-7/16 in. along each edge, parallel 25° cuts), three 27 in. top supports, and two 60 in. seat supports. Ease edges; brush end-cut preservative on cut ends of treated lumber, especially the leg bottoms. Board #7 (two legs and a top support on one 8-ft 2x6) leaves only about 1/4 in.: if the board is short or the ends are not square, use the spare 8-ft 2x6.
2. **End assemblies.** On a flat surface, draw a floor line and a centerline. Lay two legs with their bottom cuts on the floor line, outside edges about 50 in. apart. Clamp a top support flush with the leg tops (28-1/2 in. up) and a seat support with its top edge 16 in. up, both centered. Drill 3/8 in. holes: 1 carriage bolt plus 2 screws at each top-support joint, 2 bolts at each seat-support joint. Build the second assembly on top of the first.
3. **Top boards.** Stand the ends with the supports on the inside face of the legs, legs 9 in. in from each end of the top. Screw down the two outside boards (3/4 in. past the support ends), check the diagonals, then fill in the middle three with 1/4 in. spacers. Two screws per board per support.
4. **Center support and braces.** Screw the center support under the top at mid-length (faces 34-3/4 in. from each end). Fit the 2x4 braces (25-15/16 in. along each edge, about 29°) from the middle of each seat support up to the center support; trim to fit; two screws per end.
5. **Seat boards.** Two boards per side, outer edge flush with the seat-support ends, 1/4 in. gap, equal overhang at both ends; two screws per board per support. Span between supports: 47 in..
6. **Finish.** Tighten every nut, level the table, sand splinters, and apply an exterior finish once treated lumber is dry (water drops soak in). Recheck the bolts every season.

Wear eye and hearing protection. Pre-drill near board ends. Use fasteners labeled for treated lumber, or stainless steel.

Diagrams

End assembly (make 2), viewed from inside



Circles = 3/8 in. carriage bolts: 1 per leg at the top support, 2 per leg at the seat support (12 total).
Supports go on the inside face of the legs. Lay this out full size on the floor or a sheet of plywood.

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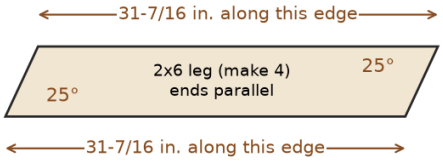
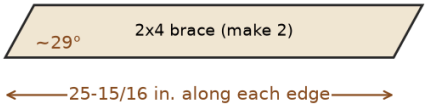
End assembly (end view)

Leg



Board length needed: about 34 in. before the angle cuts. Both cuts are 25° off square, parallel (a parallelogram). They sit level on the floor and under the top.

Brace



Board length needed: about 27-7/8 in. before the angle cuts. Cut one end, hold the brace in place against the assembled table, and mark the other end to fit.

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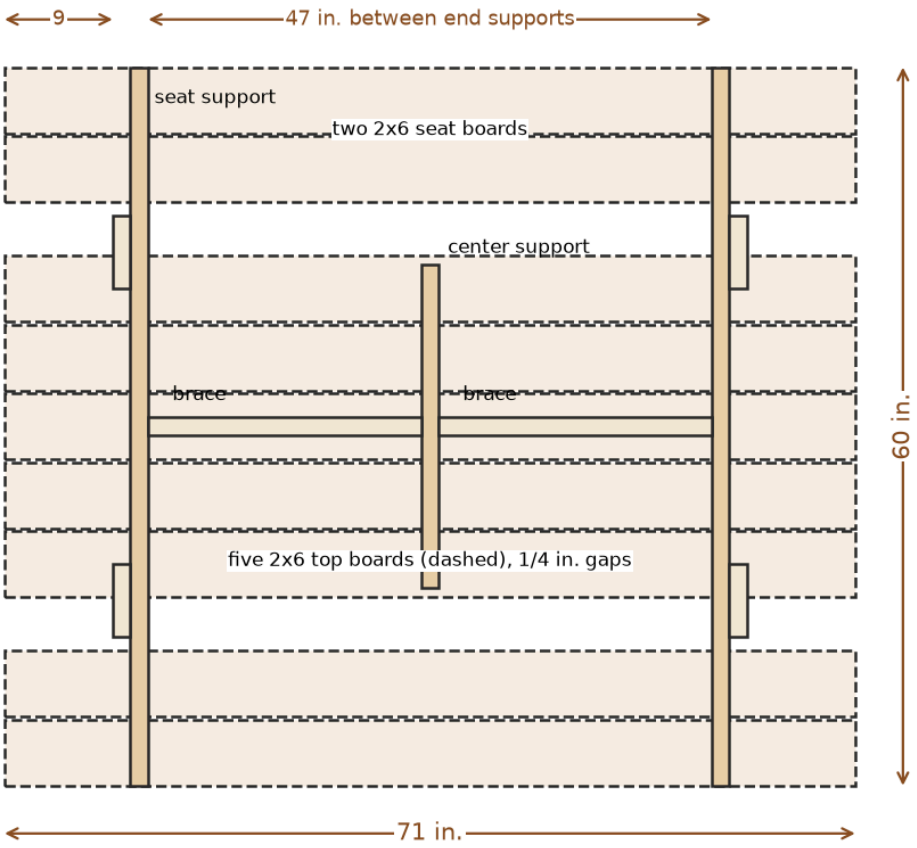
Leg and brace cuts

Framing plan (looking up from under the table)

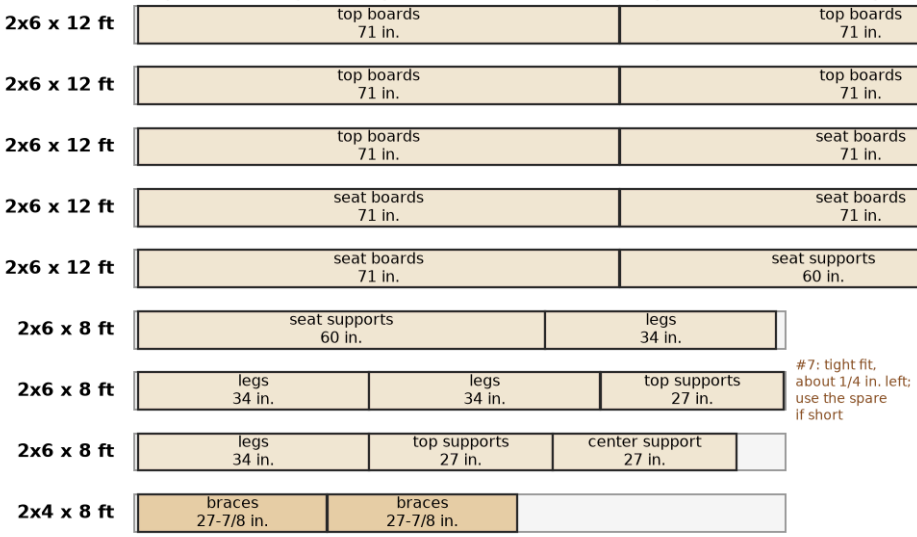


Top boards bear on three supports (27 in. each); seat boards bear on the two seat supports. The end supports sit on the inside face of the legs; the center support sits at mid-length (centerline 35-1/2 in. from each end; faces 34-3/4 in. from each end).

Framing plan (from below)

Cutting diagram: what to cut from each board

Gray = offcut. Lengths for legs and braces are the board length needed before the angle cuts.



Cutting diagram