WALDEN BACKYARDS

FIRE PIT SHOPPING LIST · BURLY COMFORT II, ROUND, 27-35 IN OPENING

Take this to the store.

Everything below builds one 30" opening — the middle of the Comfort II's range, and the easiest to lay. Building a different size? The table on page 2 has the block counts for 27", 33" and 35".

- [ ] **65 concrete wall blocks**
  Pavestone RumbleStone Medium — 3.5" H x 7" W x 7" D, 14.1 lb each
  Home Depot model 91769. 13 per course x 5 courses. About 916 lb total.

- [ ] **9 bags of paver base or crushed gravel**
  4.2 cu ft, which is 9 half-cubic-foot bags
  For a 48" circle, 4" deep, tamped level.

- [ ] **A level, a tape measure, and a wheelbarrow**
  You will not regret the wheelbarrow
  A hand tamper helps. A rented plate compactor is faster if the ground is soft.

Buy the block by the each, inside the store.

Home Depot sells these online in full pallets only. A pallet is 144 blocks and 1,994 lb — you need 65. Buying loose at the store is the difference between 65 blocks and a pallet you cannot use.

Either way, 916 lb of block needs a truck or paid delivery. It will not fit in a car.

Your build, at a glance

OPENING (INSIDE)	OUTSIDE DIAMETER	COURSES OF BLOCK
30"	**44"**	**5**
FINISHED WALL HEIGHT	BLOCKS PER COURSE	GRAVEL PAD
17.5"	**13**	**48" circle, 4" deep**

Five courses, not four

The Comfort II manual: "It is important that your fire pit is at least 15" in depth. This will allow enough air flow underneath the fire pit insert." That airflow is what makes it smokeless.

Four courses of 3.5" block is 14" — one inch short. Five courses is 17.5", which clears it.

That leaves 5.5" of air under the bowl. Most off-the-shelf fire pit kits are four courses, and most are 24" inside.

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HOW TO BUILD IT · ONE AFTERNOON

1 Mark and level the pad

Mark a 48" circle. Dig out 4", fill with paver base, and tamp it flat and level. The insert carries its own weight on the brim; the pad is so the block does not heave over a winter.

2 Lay the first course

Set 13 blocks in a ring, butted tight on the INSIDE edge. The gaps will open up on the outside — that is normal and correct for a circle. Check level as you go, not at the end.

3 Stack four more courses

Turn each course by half a block so no joint stacks directly on the one below. No mortar needed. Five courses brings you to 17.5".

4 Drop the insert in

Two people. The 37" brim rests on the top course and the 24" firebox hangs inside the ring. Nothing should touch the gravel.

Building a different size?

OPENING	OUTSIDE	PER COURSE	TOTAL BLOCKS	WEIGHT	GRAVEL PAD
27"	41"	11	55	776 lb	45" circle
30"	**44"**	**13**	**65**	**916 lb**	**48" circle**
33"	47"	14	70	987 lb	51" circle
35"	49"	15	75	1,058 lb	53" circle

The marked row is the build shown on page 1.

Building the square Comfort II instead?

A square ring is four straight runs, so the outside must be a whole number of blocks. With a 7" block that means the only openings in range are 28" and 35". A 28" opening is 6 blocks per side, 20 per course, 100 blocks in five courses — about 1,410 lb. More block than the round, but no wedge gaps at all, so it lays faster.

The square insert is 11" tall rather than 12", so you get 6.5" of air underneath.

From the Comfort II manual

Do not set the fire pit on any type of combustible surface such as a wooden or composite deck.
Make sure that there is a clean surface beneath the insert.
Burly does not publish a required clearance to structures. Check your local fire code before you site it.