

## Stretch Your Dollar

### Theme Designs Fire Pit

#### Tools

- Garden gloves
- Garden hose
- String (5' length)
- Stake
- Hammer or rubber mallet
- 3" Mason Chisel
- Tape measure
- 2' level
- 4' level (most homeowners don't have. We don't have to use it).
- Square shovel
- Hard rake
- Grading rake (most homeowners don't have. We don't have to use it).
- Broom

#### Materials (Home Depot)

- Sixty Two (62) 12"W x 4"H x 8"D Retaining Block from Home Depot (5 colors to choose from) (\$1.87 per block).  
4'-6" outer diameter/3' inner diameter.  
14 blocks per layer – minimum 4 courses is 14" height (first block is half buried).
- Three (3) Quikrete 50 lb. play sand (\$3.59). This is finer than leveling sand.
- One (1) Weber 22.5" cooking grate (\$19.99)
- One (1) Duraflame 5lb. Log (\$2.98) and/or a bundle of wood from HEB \$3.97
- One (1) Flexible Wand Lighter (Dollar Store)





## “Stretch Your Dollar” Fire Pit

### Fire Pit layout 1

Decide where you want to place your fire pit. Then rake level the general area. Also rake the area where the seating will be going. You want the whole area leveled out



### Fire Pit measure 2

Using a garden hose lay out your fire pit outline. Place your chairs and allow room for passage behind the seating if desired.



Allow at least 16" between the front of the seat and the outer edge of the fire pit which allows for a minimum walking clearance. If any adjustment needs to be made in the pit location this is the time before any of the harder work gets going.)



### Fire Pit outline 3

-drive stake in center of circle and tie string off. The fire pit's outer diameter is 4'-6" so add 6 more inches. This makes the radius of 2'-6". You don't want to have to cram the blocks in a narrow trench. Allowing for extra working rooms makes it easier to lay the first course.



**Fire Pit edging 4**

-Tie your string and measure out 2'-6" and edge your fire pit. We will edge in a complete circle



**Fire Pit location 5**

When we have edged we will review the location and make sure it has the clearance we need and the placement is good.





### Fire Pit footer 6

We will excavate down 3-4 inch and 12" wide towards the center. Place the soil around the fire pit perimeter. Do not place in one pile. It is much easier to



### Fire Pit 1<sup>st</sup> level 7

Level the first block - side to side and front to back. Use some of the bagged sand to help level the block. Then set the next block level with the first block – same side to side and front to back. When you have completed this course check the level with the 4' level if you have one. But if you do it right your first block and your last block will be at the same level. We will use the 3 bags of sand to help level the first course of block. It's much easier to use the sand to get your block level than the existing soil. You will have 14 blocks to make your first course without having to cut a block.





### Fire Pit 1<sup>st</sup> stack 8

Stack the following courses. The blocks have a lip that lock them into place. Offset the block so that the joint of the first course blocks are in the middle of the next stacked block. You will end up by the time you close the second row with joints lining up. Use the chisel and hammer to cut the block. Overhang half the block to make the cut easier. Gently tap the chisel from one side to the other. Sometimes the blocks already have a fracture line. Check your blocks for one that has a fracture line to make this step easier.





### Fire Pit 1<sup>st</sup> compact soil 9

Rake the excavated soil against the first course and compact with your foot. Half the first course should be showing. Using a broom you can brush off the sand on the block.

### Fire Pit grate 8

Stack 3 blocks on two sides opposite each other. Place them against the pit wall. Place the grate and fire up the log.



### Tips

- The nice thing is if you want to economize you can subtract a layer and add it later.
- If you have a hard surface you can flip the first bottom course of block and then stack the next courses as usual.
- Blocks can be secured by using a concrete adhesive
- Home Depot offers 5 different colors to complement your décor or theme.
- Can be done by one person but easier with two.