



## Building an Exposed-aggregate Patio

An exposed-aggregate patio project relies on basic site-preparation and concrete-pouring techniques, and adds an attractive finish.

### Everything You Need:

**Tools:** Shovel, rope or hose, mason's string, tape measure, hand tamper, level, drill, wheelbarrow, masonry hoe, hammer, screed board, mason's trowel, edger, magnesium float, stiff-bristle brush, hose and spray attachment, paint roller.

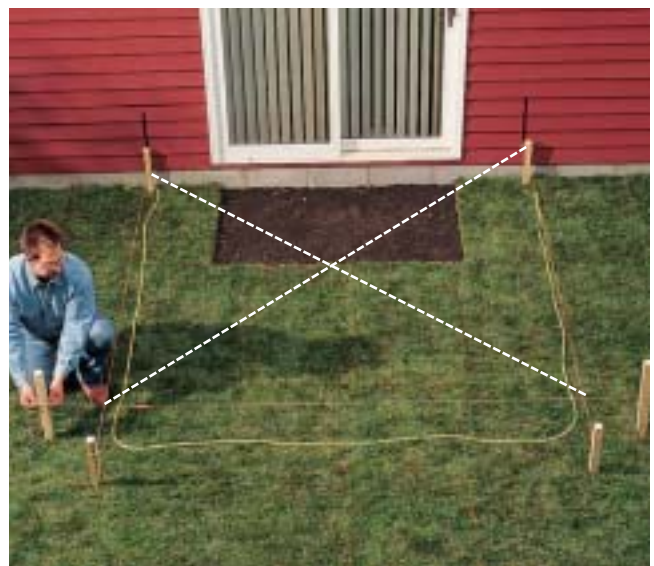
**Materials:** 2½" and 4" deck screws, stakes, compactible gravel, pressure-treated 2 × 4s, reinforcing mesh, bolsters, small aggregate, type N concrete mix, plastic sheeting, exposed-aggregate sealer.

A concrete slab project becomes an attractive patio when divided by wood forms and seeded with stones. The forms replace control joints and a gravel subbase provides stability and drainage. Refer to the section on laying out and excavating your site (pages 36 to 39) before starting your project.

### How to Build an Exposed-aggregate Patio



**1** Prepare the building site by removing any existing building materials, like sidewalks or landing areas. Consider the design tips on the previous page and throughout this book, and select a design for your concrete patio.



**2** Lay out the rough position of the patio using a rope or hose, then mark the exact layout with stakes and mason's strings. Measure the diagonals to make sure the project area is square (page 146). Establish a ¼" per ft. slope away from the house (pages 36 to 37).