

How to build an epic backyard hockey rink

By Chris Palmer

Our long winters can be tough, especially when you have kids to entertain and you're on a budget, which is why this backyard hockey rink project is such a great one to take a stab at.

Cost-effective and easy to achieve, building a backyard rink is something that will quickly become a much-loved tradition – one that can be repeated for many winters to come if you utilize the right materials.

And even though winter is half over, there's still time to build a backyard hockey

rink you can use this year.

Here is my guide for building a 28-foot by 46-foot rink in eight easy steps. Be sure to choose a pressure-treated wood product sturdy enough to cope with the many slap shots that are sure to hit the wood (my go-to is MicroPro Sienna).

Materials needed:

- 8 4'x8'x3/4" plywood – used for the end boards
- 24 2x4x8' lumber – used for braces, frames the end boards
- 13 2x10x10' lumber – used for skirt

boards for the rink frame

- 1 2x10x8' lumber – used to splice board for the rink frame
- 18 2x2x48" balusters – used for skirt board stakes
- 10 2x4x10' lumber – used as end board bracing
- 2 4x4x8' lumber - used for corner braces
- 1 box 3" deck screws
- 1 box 2" deck screws
- 1 32x50 hockey rink liner

Steps:

1. Find a flat space to lay the rink out. You want it to have a nice level grade to it so that when you fill it up you'll have a level rink.

2. Mark out the area for the rink using corner stakes. Putting in the spikes and then inserting the posts will help identify where to put the boards. The key factor to remember when you're doing any survey is knowing how big your tarp is. The tarp I used was 32 x 50 feet. Keep in mind that you need to allow for excess to go over your board. If I'm using 2x10s, that means that I want two feet on each side to flap over. So, a 32x50' tarp is actually going to make a 28x46' rink. Once you've figured out your square do a quick diagonal corner to corner measure to make sure of your measurements.

3. Stake four corners and run the skirt boards.

4. Insert ground stakes for skirt boards.

5. Install corner spikes, then run boards and splice plates. Then, install corner posts into corner spikes.

6. Build the end board and install stake boards and add in bracing. Don't forget to check that the end board is plumb before hammering in the bracing at an "X" angle.

7. Lay out the rink liner and secure in place. Remember, with excess liner over the edges, you won't have any leakage.

8. Fill rink with garden hose and wait for ice to form on your epic backyard hockey rink. (Be sure to drain your hose bib after filling so your pipe won't freeze. If you do have snow on the ground, pack it down to create a flat base for the water.)

For great outdoor DIY inspiration and project how-to guides, visit handcraftedbychrispalmer.com and follow me on Instagram @handcraftedbychrispalmer.

Often billed as Canada's Favourite Handyman, Chris Palmer has quickly become a household name through his thoughtful and creative DIYs. With a strong focus on handcrafted woodwork, Chris has turned his passion into a career – creating custom projects through his company "Handcrafted by Chris Palmer". He made his national debut on the hit HGTV show Canada's Handyman Challenge, and is now a regular guest expert on the Global Morning Show in Toronto.



MIKE MORGAN

B.A. Broker

mike@mikemorgan.ca



NEW LOCATION
345 Steeles Ave.
(near Home Hardware)
(905) 876-7777 • www.mikemorgan.ca



GREENLIFE BUILDING LOW, LOW FEES

...make for economic living in this energy efficient building. One of Milton's largest condo apartments, with approx. 1470 square feet with kitchen with granite counters and breakfast bar open to the dining room and living room with walkout to balcony. Two bedrooms plus a den, 2 full washrooms, ensuite laundry, a storage locker and underground parking make for the most comfortable living. Bonus features of games room, party room and fitness room. Just listed.

Call Mike. \$649,900




SOLD



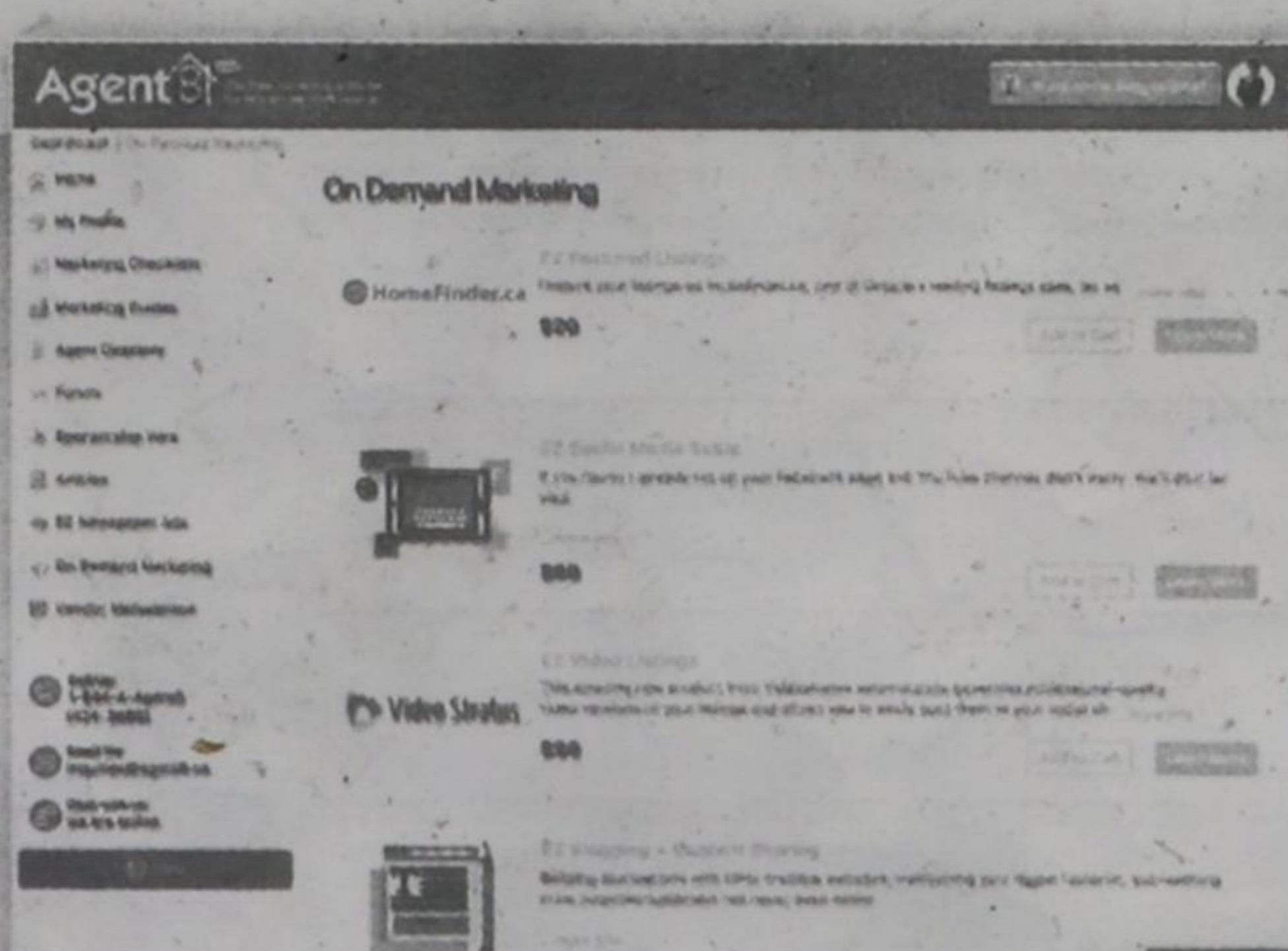
SOLD

Agent8

The free marketing platform
for real estate professionals



Join Now.




- FREE marketing checklist and planning guide
- FREE library of how-to marketing guides
- FREE member forum to discuss marketing products and services


- FREE feed of local sponsorship opportunities
- FREE vendor marketplace featuring the latest products and services
- FREE agent referral directory where members can market themselves to other members

- FREE marketing suggestions from the Agent8 team

For more info contact Tara Hill



thill@metroland.com



289-293-0679