



DIY drying rack

Save energy and money, plus extend the life of your clothes!

Follow these step-by-step instructions to build a clothes drying rack.

Here's what you'll need:

Materials

- A 22" x 28" or larger section of beadboard or other attractive backing material.
- 8 feet of 1" x 2" wood for the outer frame.
- 6 feet of 1" x 1" wood for the hanging frame.
- About 10.5 feet of 3/8" round dowel, or enough to make five to six dowels, 20" to 21" each.
- Two to three small hinges with securing hardware.
- A sash lock – find this in the window hardware section of the hardware or home store.
- Approximately 2 feet of fine chain.
- Two picture frame hangers, or other type of hangers that will hold a bit of weight.

Tools

- A miter saw.
- An electric drill with 3/8" drill bit.
- Fine grit sandpaper.
- Wood glue.
- A hammer and small finishing nails.
- A tape measure and a pencil for marking measurements.
- A stud locator.





Step-by-step instructions

Beadboard and backing frame

First, make a backing frame for your drying rack out of the beadboard and the 1" x 2" piece of wood.

1. Cut the beadboard into a 22" x 28" rectangle.
2. Cut two 28" lengths of the 1" x 2" wood (equal to the height of your beadboard).
3. Cut two 24" lengths of the 1" x 2" wood (equal to the width of the beadboard, plus the widths of the two vertical 1" x 2" pieces that will go on the sides).
4. Use the four 1" x 2" pieces of wood to create a frame around the beadboard, attached so that the 2" width of each framing board is flush with the back of the unit's backboard, creating a raised edge in which the drying frame will rest. Use wood glue to adhere the pieces in the proper positions, the two longer pieces on the taller vertical sides and the two shorter lengths across the top and bottom. Once assembled with the glue, place a nail in each corner to secure it and provide extra stability.

Inner drying frame

For the inner drying frame, use the 1" x 1" wood. These pieces will create a frame to hold the dowels, hinged for convenient storage.

1. Cut two 26" lengths of 1" x 1" wood (to fit vertically into the backing part of the unit).
2. Cut one 21" length of 1" x 1" wood (to use as the anchor for the drying part of the unit into the backing part of the unit, where the hinges will go).
3. Cut the dowel into five or six lengths, roughly 20" to 21" each.
4. Take the two longer, vertical pieces of 1" x 1" wood. Mark the two strips identically for drill holes, spaced 5 to 6 inches apart. Precision and good alignment in this step will assure your dowels are straight and your unit has structural integrity.
5. Drill the aligned 3/8" wide holes to a depth of one half inch.
6. Put a dollop of glue on one end of each dowel and insert into one side of the frame.
7. Before the glue dries, put a dollop of glue on the other end of each dowel, line them up with the holes in the opposite side of the frame and insert all of them firmly.
8. Connect the final 1" x 1" bottom piece to the side pieces at one end using glue and a couple small nails to secure the connecting points. Allow the glue to dry before the final steps of assembly.

Final assembly

1. Line up the bottom edge of your drying frame – the anchor piece – flush with the inside bottom of the backing frame. Attach the hinges with the appropriate length of wood screws so that the drying frame swings out from the storing part of the unit.
2. Next, add the chain that allows the rack to swing out to the width you prefer. Use about a foot of chain for each side of the rack. Determine the best placement to get the open angle you desire. Use screws to attach the length of chain first to the inside edge of the backing frame and then to the appropriate point on the outside edge of the drying frame. Make sure to attach the chain so it is taut when the unit opens your preferred amount.
3. Fit the sash lock to whichever side of the unit you prefer. Secure the locking half of the mechanism to the backing frame and the receiver to the drying frame. Line up the pieces. Mark their placement with a pencil to ensure good alignment. Secure with the appropriate screws or hardware and test the lock. This added feature keeps your rack securely stowed when not in use.
4. Finally, locate the studs in the wall to which you want to secure the rack. Measure the distance between them. Attach the picture hangers to the back of the dryer rack the appropriate distance apart. Securely mount the dryer rack to the wall.

Now whenever you hang laundry, you can give yourself a well-deserved pat on the back for being so handy. Enjoy your new drying rack – and your savings!

