



Log Mazes installation instructions

NOTES: Please check for any damage caused by the shipping company and take pictures and appropriate steps to file a claim, if needed.

*Please call **Digsafe** and check for any underground utilities before digging anywhere.

Materials needed

Cordless/corded 1/2" driver, 5/8"x24" lags (included in kit), 15/16" socket bit with 1/2" shaft to fit into driver, 12" adjustable wrench (backup for power drill), small axe to remove bark at the point where logs touch each other, 2' pieces of rebar to fasten logs to ground (if desired), 4' piece of rebar to stir the concrete in the anchor post holes, post hole shovel, tape measure, 80 lb bags of premixed concrete (not included), water to mix with the concrete. Concrete amounts can be easily calculated at <http://www.quikrete.com/Calculator/Main.asp>. Amount required depends on how deep you dig the holes for the anchor posts.

NOTE Keep in mind that this could be considered a climbing element and may therefore need a fall zone extending 6 feet out on all sides of it which, depending on drainage, may be 9"-12" deep. You can create a container for this material by using either 2 layers of 6x6 retainers made for this purpose (which we sell in our store), or by digging a hole 12" deep. If you choose to dig the 12" deep hole, keep in mind that it needs to be drained so it doesn't fill up with rainwater or snow melt.

NOTE Also keep in mind that playground safety recommendations say that anything designated as a climbing element needs a fall zone 6 feet out all the way around it. However, a standing surface, which is a usual characteristic of a climbing element, needs to be a very stable element that is 2" x 2" or larger. That is, if you take a 2" x 2" piece of wood and lay it on the surface so it stays level and doesn't wobble or rock, then that surface could be considered a standing surface which therefore needs a full zone.

However, logs are round, and if they have no bark on them, then that 2" x 2" piece of wood would rock, so the log would not be considered a standing surface which needs a fall zone. Our logs come with bark, but when the log dries out, the bark won't stay on.

We are telling you all this so that you don't go through with the unnecessary expense of installing a fall zone if you don't need it. Therefore, to get by until the bark falls off, just don't call the Log Maze a walking, balance, or climbing log item. Just refer to it as sitting logs, meeting place, exploratory logs, a maze to walk through, or etc.

NOTE All Log Mazes are comprised of 8 foot long logs, usually about 12 inches in diameter, and vertical anchor post logs, also usually about 12 inches in diameter, and about 3 feet long with extensions added to them so they can be fastened to the ground in concrete.

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NOTE All Log Mazes come with an 18 inch long x 5/8" auger bit and 5/8" x 24" lag screws. Once you have the logs and anchor posts configured the way you want, you would drill the 5/8 hole down through and into the log below it, or through the side of the log and into the vertical anchor post logs. We purposely keep the auger bit shorter than the lag bolt so that the threads on the bolt will go past the bottom of the hole and fasten into the solid wood beyond.

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- 1) Knowing the size of the logs and the shape of the area where you would like to place the Log Maze, go to that area and use a tape measure, 8 foot long two by fours, string, or some other way to configure the Maze the way you want it.
- 2) As you can see by the attached images, the logs can be configured in any shape or pattern. They can also be placed on top of the logs on the bottom, or one end can rest on the ground while the other end can be placed on top of another log. Typically if you place one on top of the other, that's the juncture where you might want to use a vertical anchor post log. Obviously, you can turn the logs in many directions to make the relationship between them interesting and challenging.
- 3) The anchor post logs are 3 feet long and are cut with a conical top so that they are not standing surfaces. If you don't have a fall zone, the bottom of the log will rest on the existing grade and will be 3 feet tall. If you have a fall zone, the bottom of the log will rest on the ground beneath the fall zone material and will stick up above that material 3 feet less the depth of the material.
- 4) Once you determine where you would like the vertical anchor post logs, use the post hole tool to dig a hole about 3 feet deep and ~8" in diameter at those locations.
- 5) Mix the concrete in each hole by pouring in the dry concrete mix, and then pouring in enough water to make a nice consistency. Use the 4 foot rebar to mix the concrete in the hole.
- 6) Push the anchor post log extension rebar into the hole until the bottom of the log hits the surface of the ground which will be either at the existing grade or at the bottom of the fall zone material if you decided to install a fall zone. Let it set up for a day before putting any stress on it.
- 7) Now arrange the logs to butt up against the anchor posts in your chosen configuration. If you've decided to place any logs, or parts of logs, on top of others, arrange them as well.

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- 8) Wherever one log touches another, that may be where you would like to place a lag bolt. If so, use your axe to remove bark from both logs where they touch, and drill a hole perpendicular to the top log such that the auger bit goes into the second log.
- 9) Note that because the log is relatively fresh, the auger bit can easily get bound inside the hole because of the waste from the drilling activity, so pull it back out of the hole frequently to get rid of the waste material.
- 10) Pull the auger bit out of the hole, and remove the bark around the top of the hole so that the head of the lag bolt can be made flush with the solid wood beneath the bark.
- 11) Make sure the logs don't move, find the long lag bolt, place it into the hole, and use your driver and socket to screw in the bolt. When the tip of the bolt hits the bottom of the hole, begin applying a lot of pressure so that the screw grabs the wood and pulls the bolt further in until its top is flush with the surface of the log.
- 12) The Log Maze is ready for use! Have fun!!

