

# Fredericton

## City of Fredericton Backyard Rink Handout:

### History of Rink Types:

There are three types of outdoor rinks that you can make in your own backyard, however we're just going to be taking about two of the methods: Old Fashion Method and Liner Method.

1. Old Fashioned Method: You do not need a plastic liner or tarp if you are making an old-fashioned backyard ice rink (traditional). In order to make ice, you simply pack snow, flood the snow surface with water and allow it to freeze.
  - When the weather gets consistently cold (colder than -5 degrees Celsius) and you get enough snow (anywhere from 20 to 30 centimeters), pack the snow as hard as possible.
  - Packing snow is very time consuming and most probably you will need to pack snow more than once at the very beginning when making your old-fashioned backyard ice rink, especially when the weather fluctuates.
  - You can also pack snow by placing some plywood boards onto the unpacked snow and stepping on them.
  - I also recommend that you go over your snow with a basic yard roller in order to pack it tightly and evenly. This is an extra step, but it will save you a lot of misery when it is time to flood your snow surface.
  - If you use a yard roller, make sure you fill it with at least 80 pounds of water



2. Liner Method: I recommend making a backyard ice rink using a plastic ice rink liner OR a rink tarp, especially if you live in a region where the climate gets mild temperatures often during the winter. Potential rink builders that using a plastic rink liner on your grass will absolutely in NO way ruin your beautiful grass! The fact is -- the plastic liner actually traps heat and sunlight as the temperatures rise, which creates a greenhouse effect. Using the Backyard Ice Rinks Liner Method, I assure you that in only a couple of days it will be ready to skate on!

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## STEP 1: Decide Which Backyard Ice Rink Concept Is for You

There are 3 conceptual methods to consider when making backyard ice rinks:

1. The Old Fashion Backyard Rink Style (Traditional Method)
2. The Liner Method
3. The Refrigerated Method

**\*\*Once you have decided on your concept, continue with the following steps to build your own ice rink\*\***

## STEP 2: Design Your Rink

Take some time to design (sketch) your backyard rink.

- Take measurements of your backyard.
- Figure out the shape and size of your backyard rink by observing your backyard.
- Try to avoid choosing an area with too much slope. Pick an area with a surface that is as flat as possible.
- If your backyard is just too sloped, you might want to level your backyard beforehand.
- Look around for any obstacles.



## STEP 3: Will You Use a Plastic Liner or Plastic Tarp?

- You can flood your rink without a liner or tarp, and you will get good ice with just a little more work and as long as you get enough snow fall early enough, in your area.
- However, placing a plastic liner or plastic tarp does save you a tremendous amount of time initially and it will further save you a lot of time in rink maintenance.
- The liner holds the water and you can flood your rink as soon as the temperature permits with or without snow.
- HINT: use a White/Clear liner or tarp! Darker colors will attract the sun.

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#### **STEP 4: Will You Need Rink Boards?**

You do not actually need rink boards in order to make your backyard skating rink. You can make a great outdoor ice rink surface to skate on without rink boards but having rink boards makes it much more fun for everyone, especially if you are planning to play hockey on your outdoor rink.

#### Rink Boards:

Contain the pucks! If you have only a snow perimeter, pucks get lost in the snow. Rink boards contain the pucks within the rink surface.

#### **Benefits:**

- Make the flooding of your rink much easier. The perimeter wall will contain the water.
- Provide a place to store all your excess snow. You can easily move all your snow to behind the rink boards, keeping all the snow off the rink surface.

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## STEP 5: Put Up Your Rink

I try to put up my rink structure before the cold winter weather kicks in. I usually put up my rink boards on the first weekend in November, right after Halloween. However, due to the mild winter we've had some far, it's not too late to get started on the process now, it'll just take a little more time to shovel or snow blow your rink out.

Please take time to figure the type of rink you need before you attempt to build your own ice rink. It will make the project much easier and fun.

Whatever method you choose, having a backyard ice rink is very rewarding for the entire family!

### Once you have your design picked up there are 3 steps:

#### 1. Packing the Snow:

Different ways to pack snow, can start by snow plowing it or using a shovel. Get the kids to march around, buy a roller and roll it out to be as level as possible. Whatever is solid and roll easy, works great! Biggest thing is to keep it as level as possible for water does run into the low areas.

#### 2. Flooding the rink

Most popular way is using a water hose and getting a solid 2-3 inches of ice. Once you get that base you can start to make the ice even and flood in areas where you see it down.



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### 3. Ice Resurfacing

Key is to fill in the damages and cracks made by skates. One of the best methods is to use a bucket and pour it evenly all over the ice, especially in high use areas to really smooth out the cracks and get the nice layer back. It's important to resurface the rink in the early morning or at night when the sun isn't out yet and you have a nice crisp temperature.



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In this Image here, this gentleman bought a tool that your watering house hooks up to and acts similar to a Zamboni, except the cutting of ice part.

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