

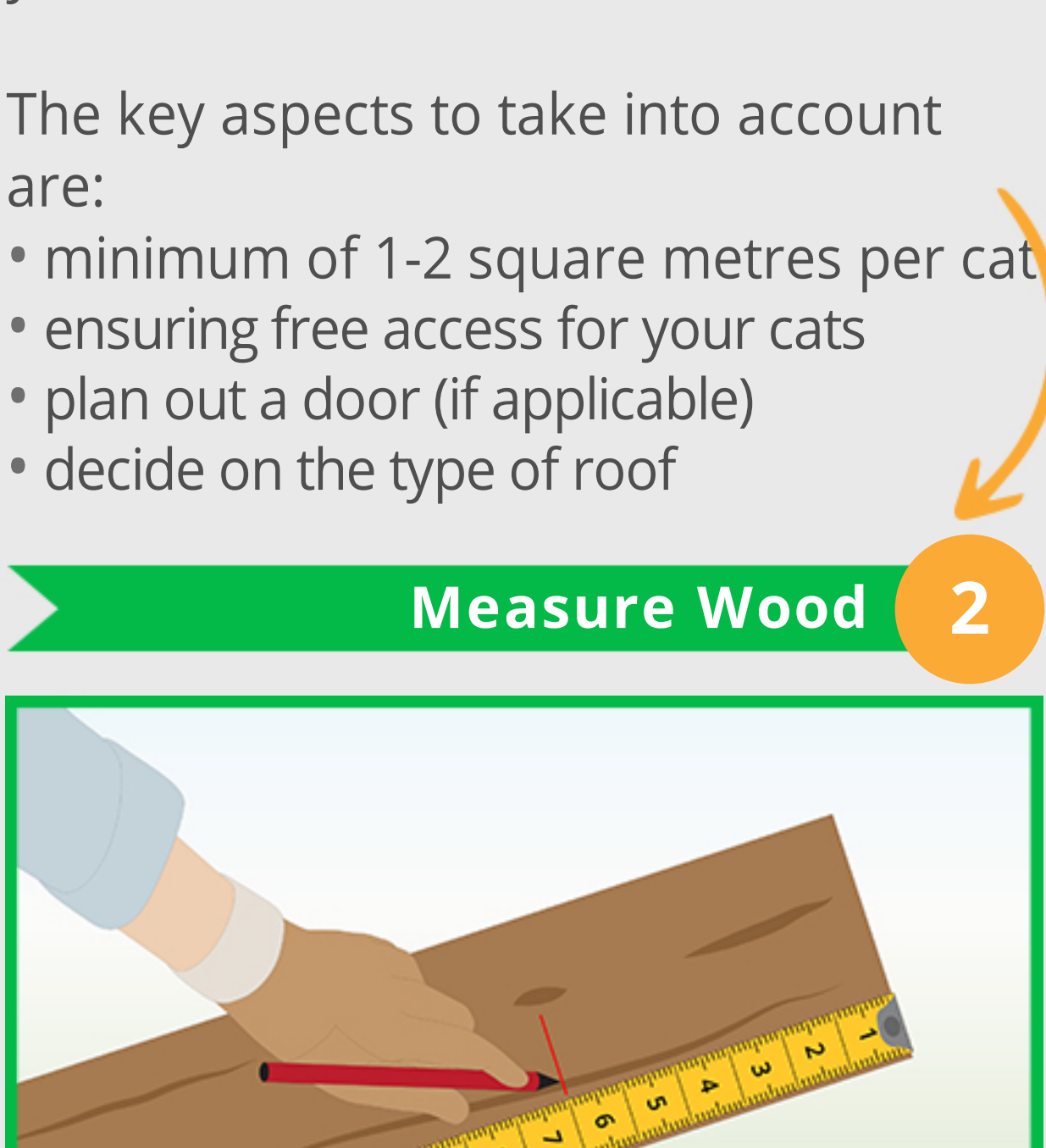
HOW TO BUILD A

Catio

What You'll Need:

- Cat proof mesh
- Timber battens (like two-by-fours)
- Staples
- Protective gloves
- Tape measure
- Marker
- Utility square
- Wire cutters
- Hammer
- Hacksaw
- Screws
- Drill
- 3x Hinges
- 1x Latch

1 Plan Design



Measure out your space and plan out your enclosure.

The key aspects to take into account are:

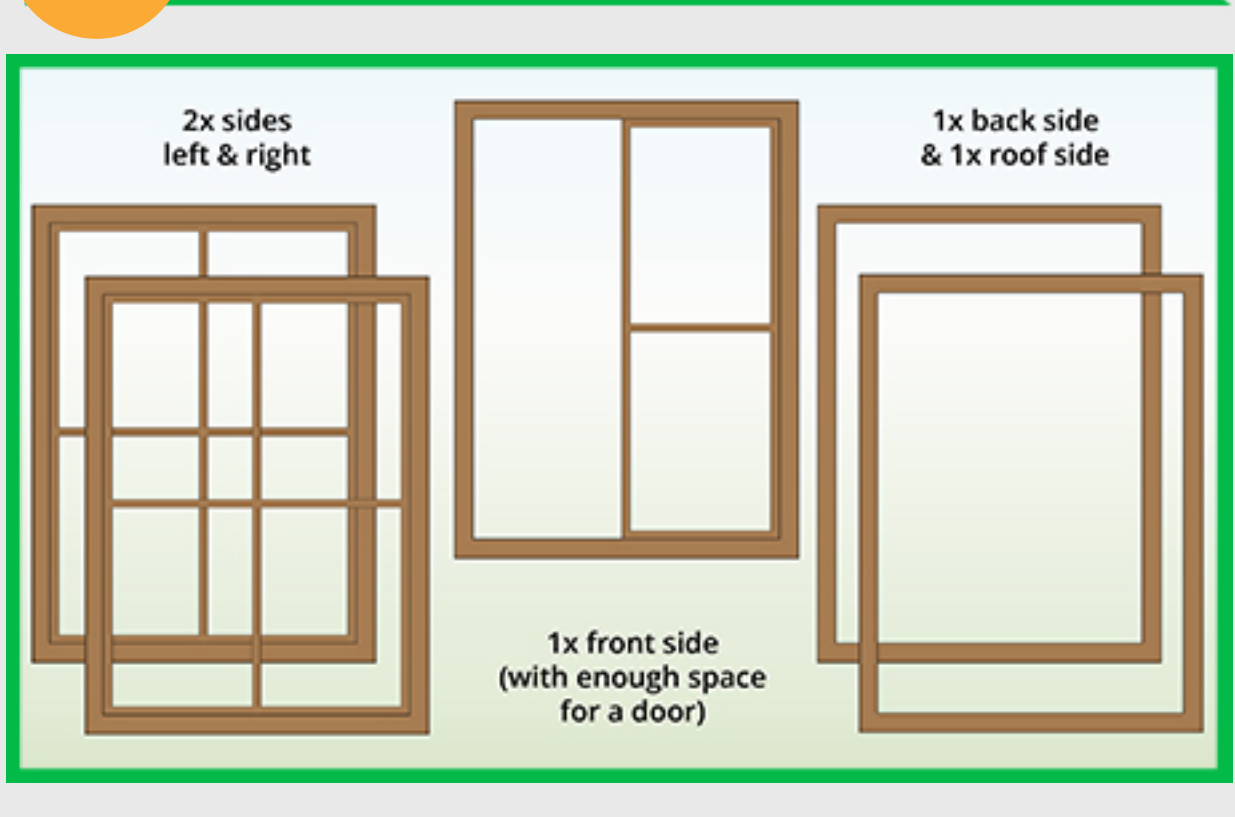
- minimum of 1-2 square metres per cat
- ensuring free access for your cats
- plan out a door (if applicable)
- decide on the type of roof

Measure Wood



Take your treated timber battens and a tape measure, then measure and mark the pieces you will need to create the constructional frames of the enclosure.

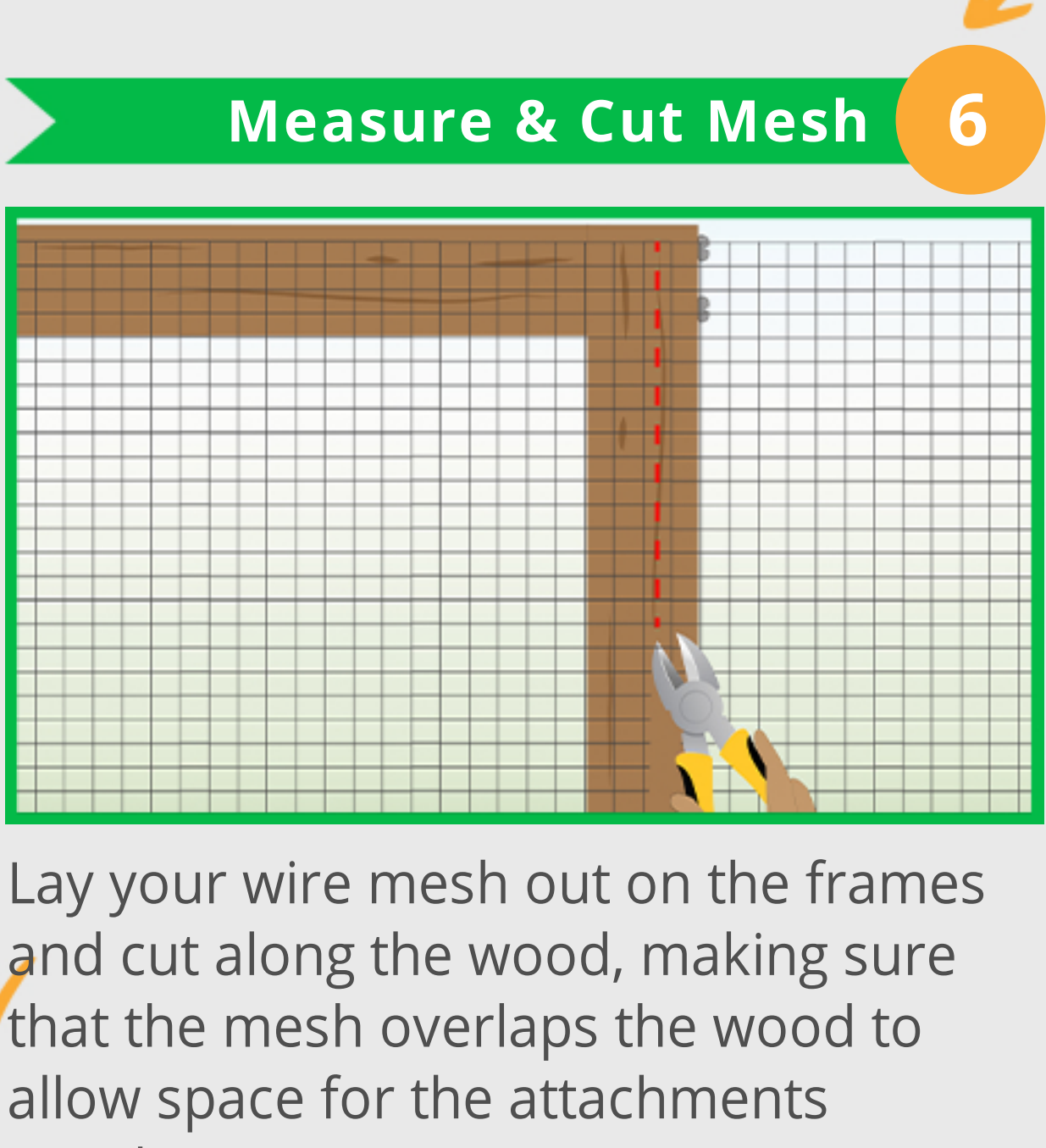
3 Cut Battens



Use a horizontal and steady surface to lay the battens on as you cut them to size with a hacksaw.

Make sure to use protective gear while doing this!

Join Battens Together

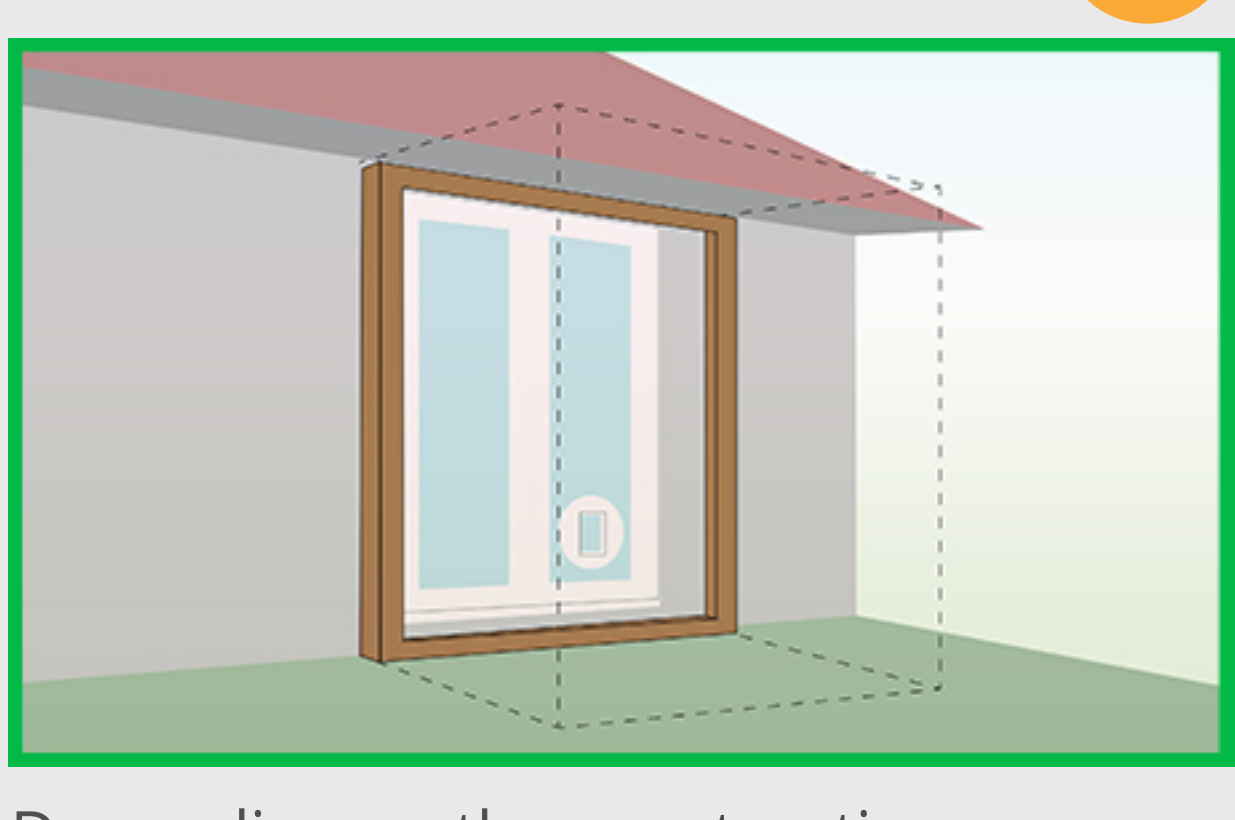


Use a utility square to make sure your angles are good.

You can even use glue for initial hold, as you join the battens together with wood screws and a drill.

Important: pre-drill and countersink your joins for a flush and secure finish!

5 Construct Frames



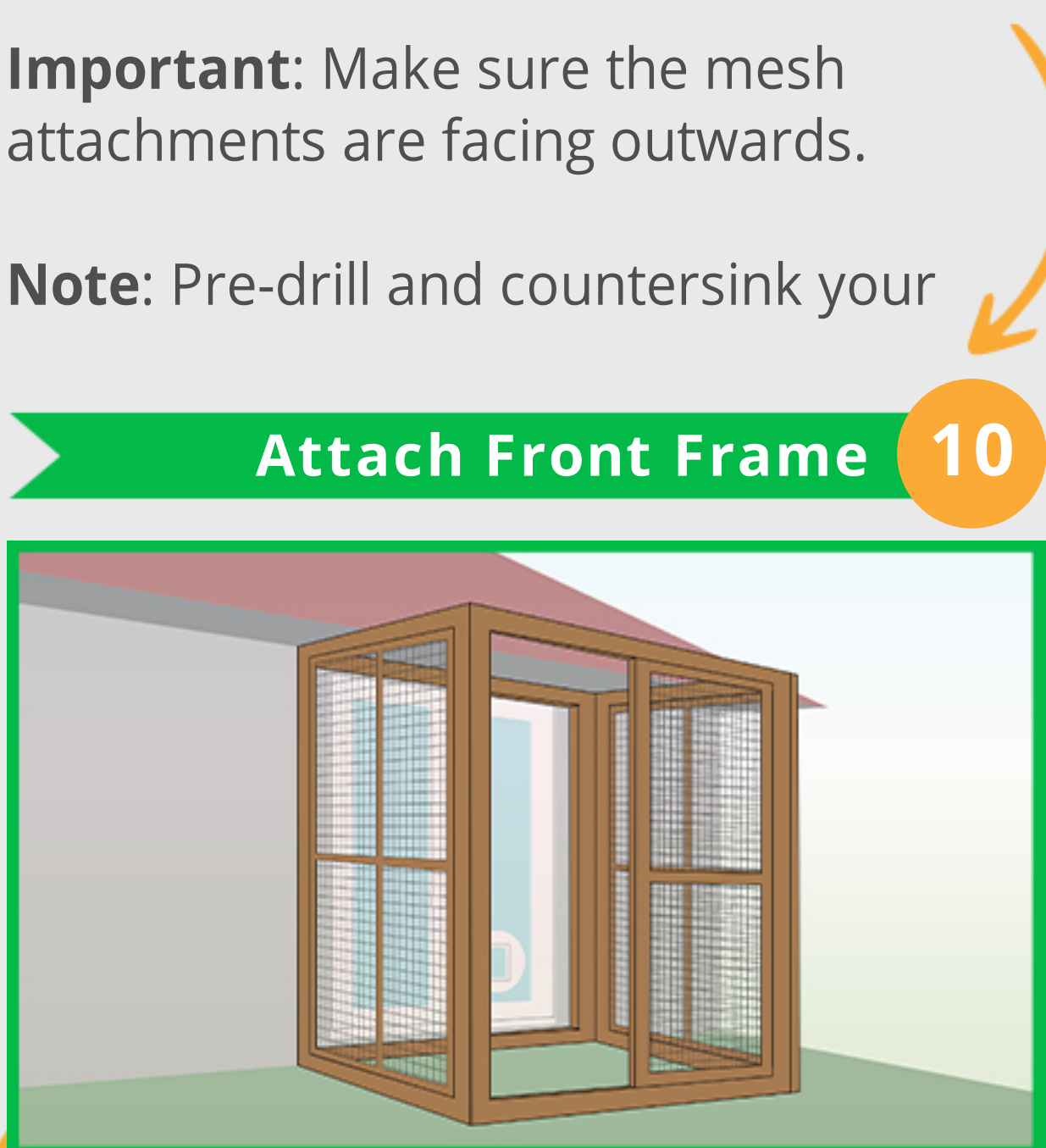
Follow your design plan and step 4 to create all the constructional wooden frames you need.

The backside of the enclosure should be open enough to allow space for the door if the catio has a doorway access.

Allow enough space to add a door from the outside if applicable.

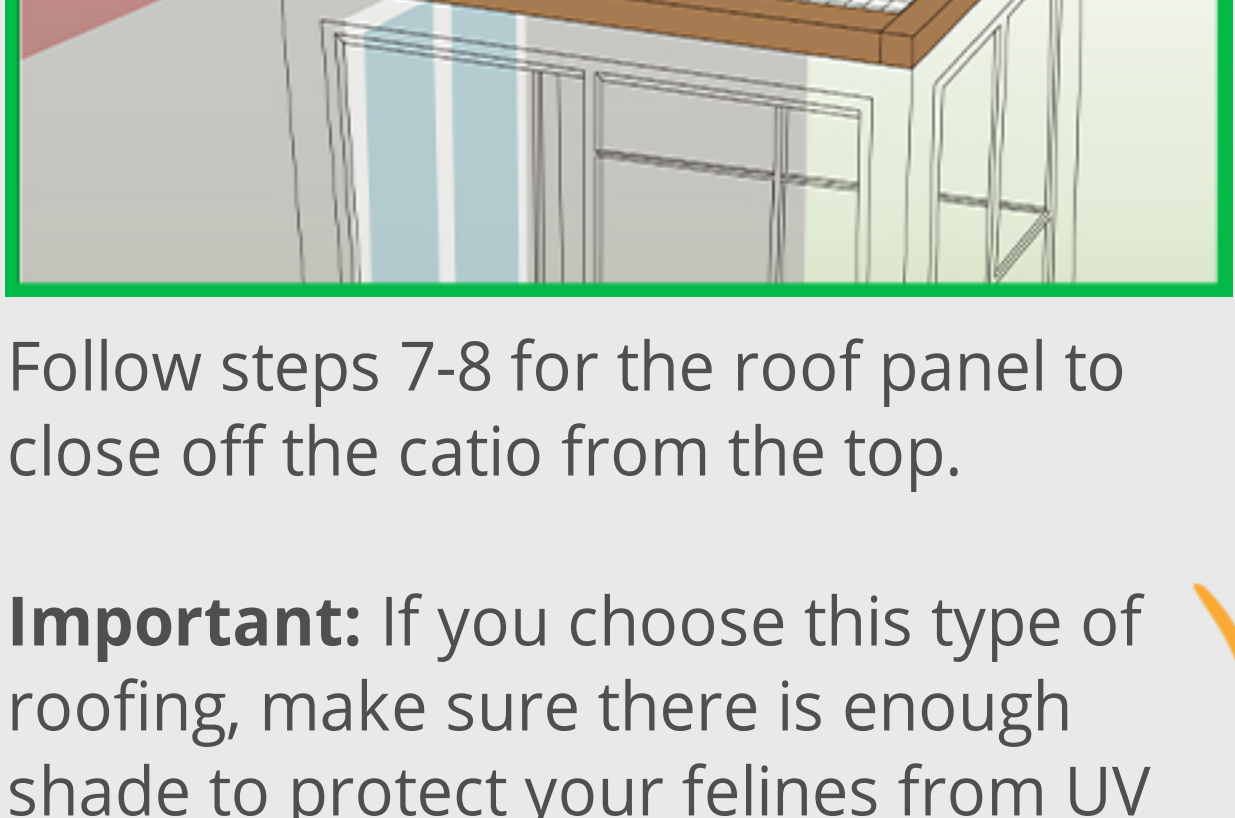
Also create a frame for the roof if you choose to create an open mesh roof.

Measure & Cut Mesh



Lay your wire mesh out on the frames and cut along the wood, making sure that the mesh overlaps the wood to allow space for the attachments (staples).

7 Attach Netting to Frames



Use staples at distances of at most 15cm and hammer them into the wood, attaching the netting to the frames.

Make sure to leave the back side open to allow free entrance for your pets.

Fix Back Frame to Wall



Depending on the construction materials of the house, you may need different wall fixings for this step.

You will need to make sure the open back of the enclosure is flush to the wall and attached securely.

9 Join Side Frames

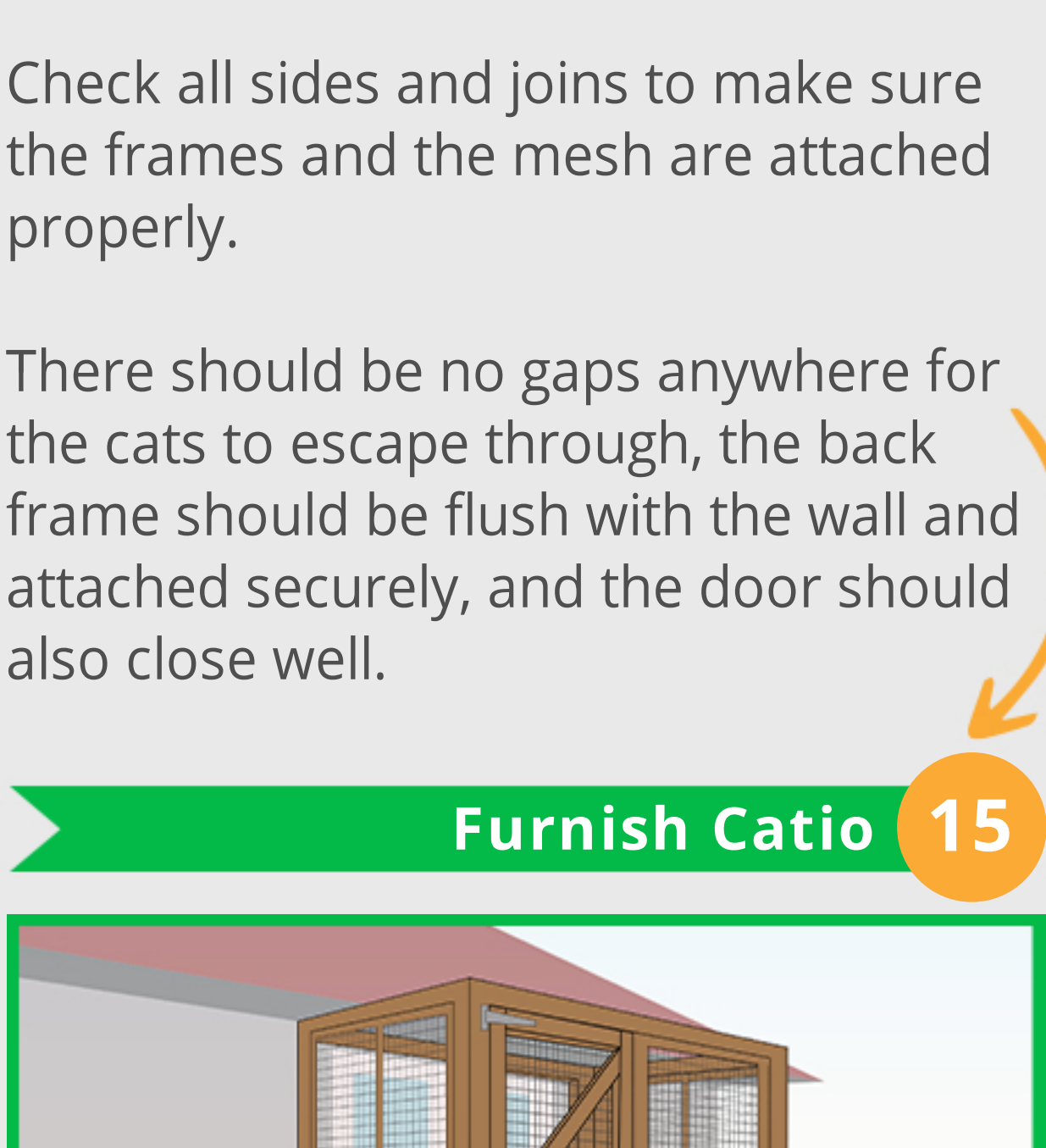


Attach the two side frames to the back frame with screws in at least 4 points per side.

Important: Make sure the mesh attachments are facing outwards.

Note: Pre-drill and countersink your

Attach Front Frame



Follow the previous step to attach the front frame to the two sides.

11a Construct Roof - Open (Mesh)



Follow steps 7-8 for the roof panel to close off the catio from the top.

Important: If you choose this type of roofing, make sure there is enough shade to protect your felines from UV rays.

Construct Roof - Closed (Plastic)

Attach a batten to the back of the catio, and then several others perpendicularly on top. This will create a good slope for water drainage.

Cut and attach a plastic roofing sheet with roof screws to prevent water from seeping into the enclosure.

12 Create Door (if applicable)

If your catio has no doorway access from the inside, you'll need to add a door to it. Even if it does, you can opt for having two entryways.

Create your door just like the rest of the structural frame, but add diagonal braces to make it more sturdy and mobile.

Attach mesh to it from the outside to cat-proof it as well.

Attach Door (if applicable)

Skip this step if you won't be adding a door.

Use screws to attach 3 latches to the wooden frame.

Then screw in a latch as well to keep the door closed.

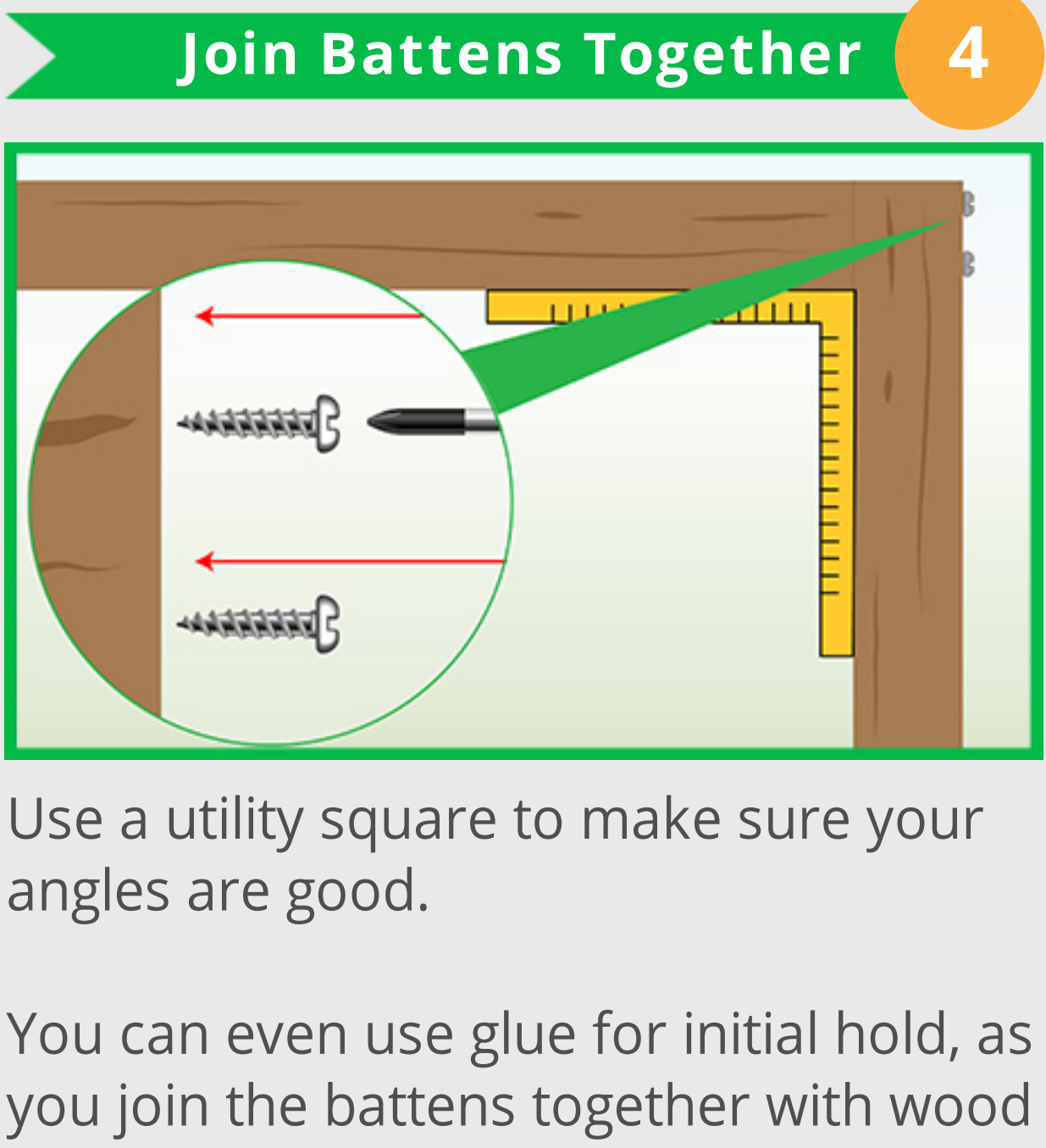
14 Check for Weak Spots

Your catio should be ready now.

Check all sides and joins to make sure the frames and the mesh are attached properly.

There should be no gaps anywhere for the cats to escape through, the back frame should be flush with the wall and attached securely, and the door should also close well.

Furnish Catio



It's time to add enrichment options for your furry friends to fully enjoy the outdoors, while also being safe. Some great options include:

- climbing trees, steps and ladders;
- hiding spots, beds & hammocks;
- scratching posts;
- feline-friendly plants;
- toys; etc.