



STEP 1 OF 3 • PHOTOS

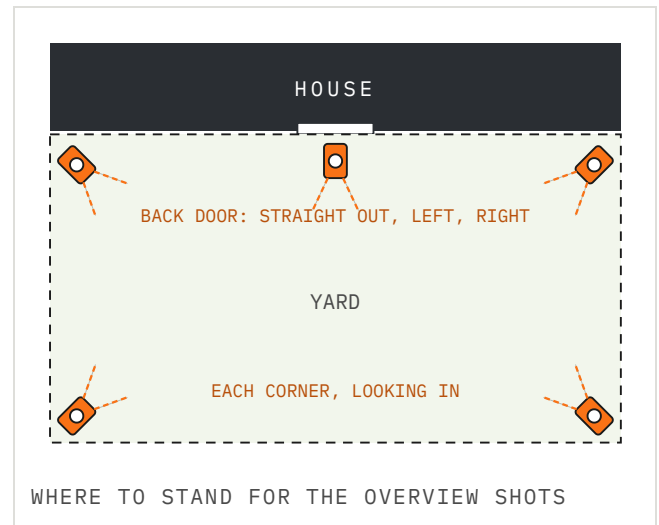
SEND US THE SITE. WE'LL DRAW THE PLAN.

This takes about 30 minutes with a phone and a tape measure. Good photos and a few honest numbers are what make a plan fit your yard on the first draft.

01 THE PHOTO LIST

- ☐ **Each corner of the yard**, standing in the corner and looking in. Four photos minimum.
- ☐ **From the back door**: straight out, then left, then right.
- ☐ **The house wall facing the project**, end to end: doors, windows, downspouts, hose bibs, outlets, vents, AC unit.
- ☐ **From an upstairs window**, if you have one. It is the best overview we can get.
- ☐ **Slopes from the side**, so we can see how much the ground drops.
- ☐ **Problem spots**: where water sits, soft or washed-out areas, cracked or heaving concrete, leaning walls.
- ☐ **Things that stay**: trees, beds, sheds, fences, meters, septic lids, well heads, overhead lines.
- ☐ **Close-ups of materials** you want to match: brick, siding, stone.

Tips: hold the phone sideways, shoot in daylight, don't zoom. Put a person or an open tape measure in a few shots for scale.



YOU'LL NEED

- ☐ **Phone** for photos and a 2-minute video
- ☐ **Tape measure** 100 ft is easiest; 25 ft works with a helper
- ☐ **2 stakes, string and a line level** only if your yard slopes (about \$10 at any hardware store)
- ☐ **Paper or your plot plan** to jot the numbers down



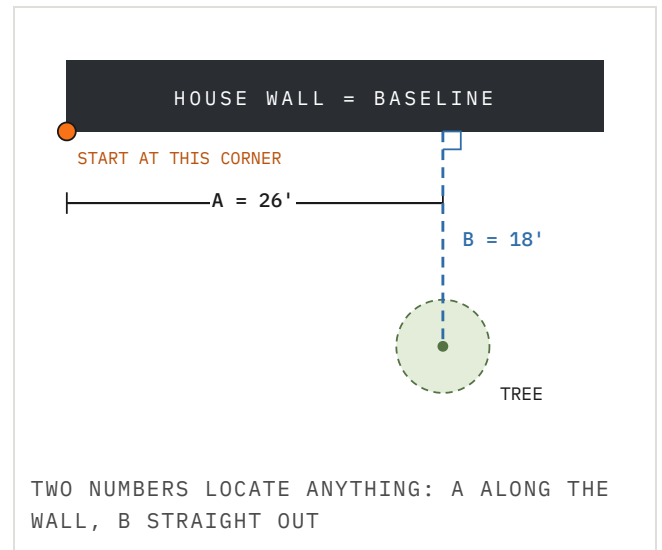
STEP 2 OF 3 • MEASUREMENTS

MEASURE FROM THE HOUSE.

You don't need a survey. Use the house wall as a straight baseline and measure everything from it. A rough hand sketch with numbers on it is perfect.

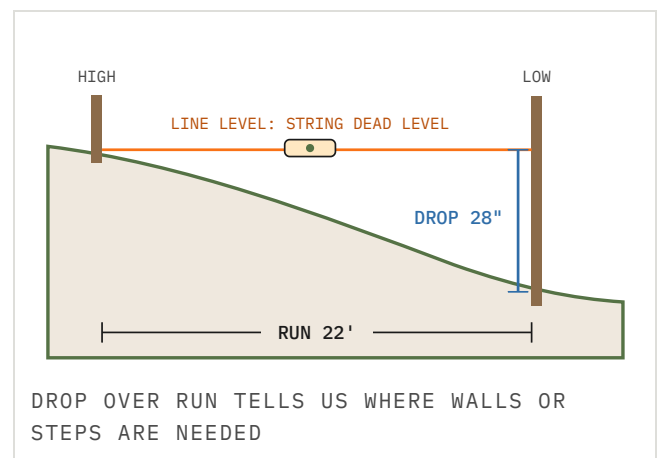
02 THE BASELINE METHOD

1. **Measure the house wall** facing the yard, corner to corner.
2. **Mark the openings.** From the same starting corner, measure to each door and window edge. Note how high each door sill sits above the ground.
3. **Locate everything else with two numbers: A** along the wall from your starting corner, and **B** straight out from the wall. Do this for trees, shed corners, fence corners, the edge of an existing patio.
4. **Measure the yard:** house to back fence or property line, and side to side.
5. **Existing features:** patio or deck size, how many steps and how tall each one is, wall heights.



03 SLOPES, THE STRING METHOD

1. Drive one stake at the high spot and one at the low spot.
2. Tie the string to the high stake right at ground level.
3. Pull it to the low stake and slide it until the line level reads dead level.
4. At the low stake, measure from the string down to the ground. That's the **drop**. Measure the distance between the stakes. That's the **run**.
5. Repeat for each direction the yard slopes. Two or three readings are plenty.



Only measuring? No need to call 811 yet. Your contractor calls 811 before anyone digs.



STEP 3 OF 3 • VIDEO + SEND IT

WALK US AROUND THE YARD.

04 THE 2-MINUTE VIDEO

1. Start at the back door. Walk slowly around the whole area and keep the camera steady.
2. **Talk while you walk.** "Water sits here after it rains." "We want a patio about here." "This tree stays."
3. Point the camera at the ground where it's soft, wet or washed out.
4. Finish by filming the view from where you'd sit.

05 ALSO HELPFUL

- ☐ **Plot plan or survey** from your closing papers or your county GIS site
- ☐ **HOA rules** if you have an HOA
- ☐ **Photos of yards you like** Pinterest or Houzz links are fine
- ☐ **Your build budget range** and who will build it: you, a contractor, or us in central PA

06 HOW TO SEND IT

ON YOUR ORDER PAGE

Use the form on the page you landed on after checkout:

muthlerlandscaping.com/design-order-received. Attach your plot plan and sketch there, and paste a share link to your photos and video (Google Drive, Google Photos, iCloud, Dropbox or an unlisted YouTube link).

YOUR NOTES

ITEM	A (ALONG WALL)	B (OUT)
House wall length		—
Door 1		sill ht:
Door 2		sill ht:
Slope 1	run:	drop:
Slope 2	run:	drop:

BIG FILES?

Send them free with **WeTransfer** to **info@muthlerlandscaping.com**. Put the name on your order in the message so we can match it.

What happens next: we confirm we have everything within one business day, and that's when your first-draft clock starts. The draft arrives as a PDF by email. Mark it up and we revise within your package.