



GUIDE TO BUILDING A RAISED BED

Materials you will need:

- Six 2"x8"x8' untreated spruce* boards (Full length)
- Six 2"x8"x4' untreated spruce boards (Three 8' boards each cut in half)
- 4"x4" untreated fir, cut into four 22" pieces for corner posts
- Twenty-four 3 1/2" exterior screws
- Landscape fabric (4x8' rectangle)
- Drill
- Strapping optional for added support (shorter 2" screws needed to attach strapping)

*Spruce is recommended for a low cost lumber option. Any untreated lumber will work, but different types will break down at different rates. Cedar is considered the one of the best and longest-lasting options available, though it will be more expensive.

Construction:

It's easiest to have at least two people building a garden bed at a time. Once assembled, it will be heavy to move, so be sure to build on the location that you want your garden to be.

1. Identify where your garden bed will go. It should receive at least 6-8 hours of full sun and be close to an easily accessible water source. It's also best to plant away from any trees, as branch and root growth can affect the garden in future years.
2. Even the location out by raking/leveling soil if needed.
3. Start by aligning three 8' boards side-by-side on a flat surface, making sure they are even. Place one 22' length of 4X4 underneath each end row so that they are below all three boards. Have the 8' boards hang about 1.5 inches over the edge of the 4x4.



4. Drill through the top 8' boards into the 4x4. It is best to drill two screws per board, totalling six screws per side.
5. Repeat steps 3 and 4 using the remaining 8' boards and 4x4 corner posts. If applicable, attach strapping across the middle of the boards, on the same side as the 4x4 corner posts.
6. Now that you have completed two long "walls" of the bed, it's time to start attaching the smaller walls. Take one long wall and flip it so that it is laying on its back, with the corner posts facing up. Have one person hold three short boards up vertically, perpendicular to the long wall, so that their bases run along the corner post. Check to make sure they are even and flush to the long wall.
7. As one person holds the 4' boards, another person drills through them into the corner post. Again, drill two screws per board. This should form an "L" shape.
8. Repeat steps 6 and 7 with the other wall and the remaining boards to form the other "L" shape.
9. Attach the two L shapes together and drill two screws per board to finish the construction of the raised bed.
10. Cut a 4x8 piece of landscape fabric and place it inside the newly built bed frame before filling with soil.
11. Fill the assembled bed with two yards of super loam soil blend. We recommend Black Earth Compost Raised Bed Soil Blend.

