

Raised Garden Bed

- 4 – 2"×8"×8' pressure-treated Southern Pine boards*
- Screws designed for use with pressure-treated lumber
- Stakes (wood or rebar)
- Landscape adhesive
- Drill
- Saw

*These instructions are for an 8'x8' garden bed. If you want to make a smaller size, simply adjust the wood lengths to your desired size.



When you bring your pressure-treated wood home from the lumber yard, it is likely it will have a high moisture content. It is recommended to store the boards in a dry, shaded area with good airflow and allow it time to dry for a few weeks. This drying process will help reduce the chances of warping, cracking or shrinking after construction.

Prior to building it is recommended to prep the area where you will be putting your finished garden bed. Clear away any grass, weeds, or debris, and level the ground as much as possible to ensure your bed sits flat and stable. You may also want to lay down landscape fabric to help prevent weeds from growing up through the soil. Taking the time to properly prep the space will make installation easier and contribute to better drainage and overall garden performance.

Square off one end of each of the 2"×8"×8's. Cut 2 of them to 95" long. Cut the remaining 2 to 92" long. We'll refer to these as "short" and "long" sides.

1. If you plan to paint any of the sides, this is the best time to do it while you can lay them flat and use a roller or sprayer.
2. We painted ours to match the home color and left the top rails natural for contrast.
3. On each end of the long sides, measure and drill pilot holes 3/4" from the end and evenly spaced. This will help prevent the end grain from splitting.
4. Using a countersink bit or a drill bit the size of the screw head, drill a countersink hole for each of the screws, making sure the grain of the wood is cupped facing inward.
1. Lay out both the long and short sides to form an 8' square. Again, be sure that all the end grain is cupped inward. This way, the boards will tend to move in the same direction and retain their shape more naturally.
2. Using screws designed for pressure-treated lumber, install 3 at each corner, countersinking. You may need a friend to help you line up the ends on this step.
3. To ensure the bed stays in place, drive stakes into the ground at the four corners and attach them to the sides with screws.
4. Finally, install landscape fabric along the bottom and up the sides to inhibit weed growth.