

How to Build a 5ft x 10ft Raised Garden Bed

Step by Step Guide for Beginners



Note: You can replace the size in the guide with any size you were looking do accomplish.

Building a Raised Garden Bed

At **Guided Collectibles**, we're passionate about providing helpful, down-to-earth information. Feel free to share this guide with friends, family, or anyone who could use a little help building their garden beds. Knowledge is best when shared! Just please remember to link back to us at [Guided Collectibles](#) so others can find their way to all the great resources we offer, including more how-to guides, collectibles, and tips for every part of your life.

Friendly Disclaimer: This guide is designed to provide helpful advice and step-by-step instructions, but it's always a good idea to do additional research based on your specific location, materials, and gardening needs. **Guided Collectibles** is not responsible for any mishaps, injuries, or issues that arise during your project. Always practice safety and care when working with tools and materials. We wish you happy gardening and a successful project!

The List – both ideal, and on a budget

Building your own raised garden bed is a fantastic way to grow healthy vegetables, herbs, or flowers, especially if your backyard soil isn't ideal. In this guide, I'll walk you through the process step-by-step. Whether you're new to gardening or have some experience, this guide will help you build a solid, long-lasting raised garden bed that's 5ft x 10ft. I'll also show you how to protect it from moisture and keep it contaminant-free!

Tools and Materials You'll Need:

Ideal Tool List:

- **Measuring tape** (at least 10 feet long)
- **Circular saw** (for cutting wood)
- **Cordless drill** (to attach screws)
- **Wood screws** (galvanized, 3-inch for strength)
- **Square** (to ensure corners are perfect)
- **Level** (to ensure your bed is flat)
- **Shovel** (to level the ground)
- **Landscape fabric or plastic sheeting** (for lining)
- **Staple gun and staples** (to attach the fabric)

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- **Safety gear** (goggles, gloves)

Budget-Friendly Tool List:

- **Hand saw** (if you don't have a circular saw)
 - **Screwdriver** (manual, instead of a drill)
 - **Nails** (instead of screws, but screws are preferred)
 - **Twine and a ruler** (to measure and mark)
 - **Leveling tool alternative:** Use a long piece of straight wood or a smartphone level app
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Materials:

- **Four untreated 2x10 lumber boards**, 10 feet long (for the sides)
 - **Two untreated 2x10 lumber boards**, 5 feet long (for the ends)
 - **Four untreated 2x4 lumber boards**, 3 feet long (for corner supports)
 - **Gravel or small stones** (for drainage)
 - **Compost, soil, and mulch** (to fill the bed)
 - **Landscape fabric or plastic sheeting** (to protect the wood from moisture without contaminating the soil)
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Step-by-Step Guide

1. Choose the Right Location

- **Sunlight:** Make sure to pick a location that gets **at least 6-8 hours of sunlight** every day. This is crucial because most plants need plenty of sunlight to grow.
- **Level ground:** Look for a spot where the ground is **relatively flat**. This will make it easier to build the garden bed and prevent water from pooling unevenly, which can drown your plants.
- **Avoid trees or large bushes:** These can cast too much shade and compete for nutrients with your garden bed.

2. Prepare the Ground

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- **Remove grass and weeds:** Use a **shovel** to dig out any grass or weeds where your garden bed will sit. Dig about 2 inches deep and clear out the whole area. This step helps ensure your bed won't have weeds growing through it later.
- **Level the area:** After clearing the area, use a **rake** to smooth out the surface so the bed doesn't tilt or sink.
- **Add drainage:** Spread a layer of **gravel or small stones** (about 2-3 inches deep) across the area where the bed will sit. This helps with drainage and prevents water from pooling around your plants' roots, especially if you live in an area with heavy rainfall.

3. Cut the Lumber

You'll need:

- **Two pieces** at 5 feet for the shorter sides
- **Two pieces** at 10 feet for the longer sides
- **Four pieces** of 2x4 lumber, each about 3 feet long, for corner supports
- **Measuring and marking:** Use a **measuring tape** to mark the correct lengths on the lumber. Double-check your measurements to avoid cutting mistakes.
- **Cutting:** If you have a **circular saw**, line the saw blade up with your marks, and slowly cut through the wood. If you're using a **hand saw**, make sure to keep your arm steady and cut along the line you marked earlier.

Tip: If this is your first time using a saw, take it slow! You'll want to apply firm, even pressure and make sure the cut is as straight as possible. If using a hand saw, it helps to start with small back-and-forth motions to get the cut started.

4. Assemble the Frame

- **Place the boards together:** Stand the two **10-foot boards** upright. Place the two **5-foot boards** between them, so you form a rectangular frame.
- **Corner supports:** Take your four **3-foot 2x4s** and place one inside each corner of the rectangle to act as support. This will strengthen the frame and prevent the boards from bending over time.
- **Screw or nail the boards together:** Use your **cordless drill** (or screwdriver if you don't have one) to attach the boards to the corner supports using **3-inch wood**

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screws. If you're using nails, make sure they're driven in tightly to avoid any gaps. **Place screws/nails every 6-8 inches** to ensure everything holds together well.

Pro Tip: Use a **square** to make sure your corners form a perfect 90-degree angle. This will help keep the frame from warping.

5. Moisture Protection (Without Contaminants!)

Since untreated wood is more likely to rot, you'll want to take steps to protect it from moisture:

- **Line the inside of the bed:** Take your **landscape fabric** or **plastic sheeting** and cut it to fit the inside walls of your bed. Make sure it covers the entire length and height of the wood. This will act as a barrier between the soil and the wood, preventing moisture from speeding up the rotting process.
- **Staple the lining:** Use a **staple gun** to attach the fabric or plastic to the inner walls. Pull the fabric tight to prevent it from sagging, which could trap water. Avoid lining the bottom of the bed, as you want water to drain properly into the ground.

6. Position and Level the Bed

- **Move the frame into place:** Once assembled, carefully lift or slide the frame into its final position. You might need a partner to help you move it since it can be heavy.
- **Level the frame:** Use a **level** or your leveling alternative (like a piece of straight wood or a smartphone app) to check if the bed is sitting flat. If one side is higher than the other, adjust by digging out a bit more soil or adding more gravel underneath.

7. Fill with Gravel for Drainage

- **Spread gravel or small stones:** Before you add soil, spread a layer of **gravel or small stones** about **2-3 inches deep** at the bottom of the bed. This improves drainage and prevents water from pooling inside the bed, which could damage the roots of your plants.

8. Add Soil and Compost

- **Start with compost:** Fill the bottom of your bed with a layer of **compost**. Compost adds essential nutrients to the soil that will help your plants grow healthy and strong.
- **Top it off with garden soil:** After the compost, add **garden soil** on top until the bed is nearly full. **Leave about 2 inches of space** at the top for mulch. As you add the

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soil, **mix it with the compost** to ensure nutrients are spread evenly throughout the bed.

9. Mulching and Final Prep

- **Add mulch:** Once your soil is in, spread a thin layer of **mulch** on top. Mulch helps keep moisture in the soil and prevents weeds from growing. This is especially important in hot, dry climates.
- **Planting:** Now that your raised garden bed is ready, it's time to plant! Follow the instructions for your seeds or plants, making sure to space them out appropriately and plant at the right depth.

10. Water and Monitor

- **Water thoroughly:** After planting, give your garden bed a good soak. Watering helps settle the soil and ensures the plants get a good start. Be careful not to overwater—check the moisture by sticking your finger into the soil about 2 inches deep. If it feels dry, it's time to water again.
 - **Watch for settling:** Over time, the soil might settle, especially after watering. If this happens, you can add more soil or mulch to maintain the proper level.
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Final Tips:

- **Maintenance:** Inspect your raised garden bed every year to check for signs of rot or damage to the wood. If needed, replace the lining to keep the wood protected from moisture.
 - **Repurposing materials:** Save costs by reusing old lumber, bricks, or stones for your garden bed. Just ensure any materials used aren't chemically treated, as this could contaminate your garden.
 - **Watering:** Consider installing a drip irrigation system to water your garden evenly without causing soil erosion. Otherwise, use a watering can and pour slowly near the base of your plants.
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Sharing and Disclaimer

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