



Made By Me™

**GARDEN BED
HARDWARE KIT**

INSPIRATIONAL GUIDE



Made By Me™

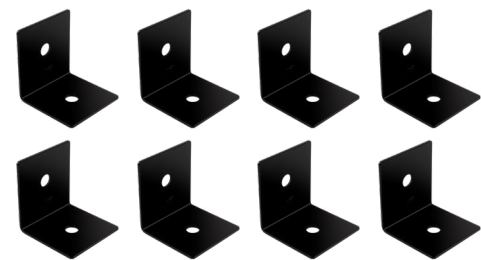
Our garden bed hardware kit allows you to add decorative touches to your raised garden beds. Our Storm Shine™ finish is built to withstand whatever the weather throws at you, whether its rain, snow, dust or your annual family water balloon fight. Make your outdoor garden beds a statement maker.

LET'S START BUILDING™

LET'S START BUILDING



WHAT'S IN THE BOX



8 3" x 3-1/4" x 3" HEAVY ANGLES

- Holds up to 75 lbs of weight



16 1/2" x 1-1/2" LAG SCREWS

WHAT YOU NEED



PENCIL



TAPE MEASURE



WRENCH



SPADING FORK



SHOVEL



**POWER DRILL
1/8" DRILL BIT
1/4" DRILL BIT**



**PLANTS OR
VEGETABLES**



RAISED BED SOIL



**2" X 6"* LUMBER
ACTUALLY 1-1/2" X 5-1/2"**

*Actual dimensions could vary based on project specifics

OPTIONAL TOOLS & MATERIALS

- HAND SAW
- STRING
- WIRE MESH HARDWARE
- HEAVY DUTY PLASTIC SHEETING
- 1/2" HEX BIT SOCKET
- 9/64" DRILL BIT
- WOODEN CROSS SUPPORTS

PLANNING FOR YOUR RAISED GARDEN BEDS

LOCATION

Find the best, leveled, outdoor spot for your raised garden beds. Keep in mind the type of plants or flowers you plan to grow and how much sun they need. Usually the more sun the better, so a good place to start is to check out the sunniest parts of your outdoor space. Avoid wet or marshy areas as well as extremely windy spots. Other than sun you might want to consider proximity to water, aesthetics, and convenience.

TYPES OF WOOD

Many different wood types can be used for raised garden beds. Cedar and redwood have water and rot resistant properties and are durable and they can be budget friendly too! Fir, pine, and hemlock are also options, but they are not the most long lasting.

SIZING

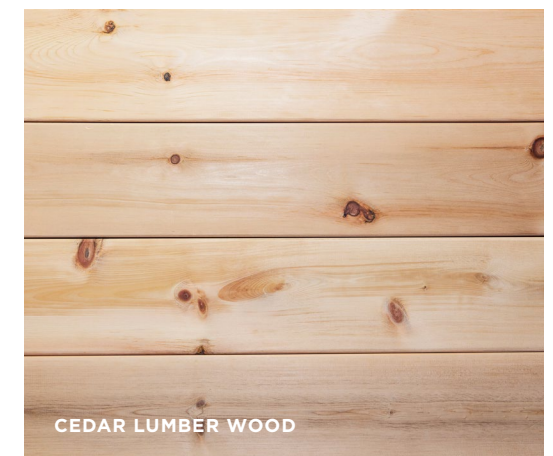
Decide on the best size for your raised garden bed. If possible, plan for at least 3 to 4 feet wide and then the length you have the space for. You want to avoid beds wider than 4 feet as you will not be able to access your crops without stepping inside the bed. Also if you plan to place the bed next to a wall or fence, it is recommended you create a narrower bed as you will only have access from one side. If you have less room, a smaller bed is an option too! Beds can be as narrow as 18" and 2 feet wide.

DEPTHS AND PLANTING

Now let's talk about optimum bed depth. Your bed should be at least 8" deep. Since lumber like cedar will come in a standard 6" height, you can stack two boards on top of each other for your bed. (*Note: lumber yard lumber is technically 5.5" in height so two boards will be a finished height of 11".) It is an option to go taller, but keep in mind that the added soil will add additional pressure to the sides so you would want to add cross supports to any bed taller than 12". You also want to consider what you plan to grow as you decide on the bed height. Deep rooted vegetables such as carrots or parsnips need a minimum of 10" soil, while shallow rooted vegetables like onion or lettuce only require 6". Once you have decided on your location and size mark it. You can use string to mark it or a shovel tip. Remove any grass from the location. Use a spading fork to turn up the soil to help prepare it.



SUNNY & LEVELED SPOTS



CEDAR LUMBER WOOD

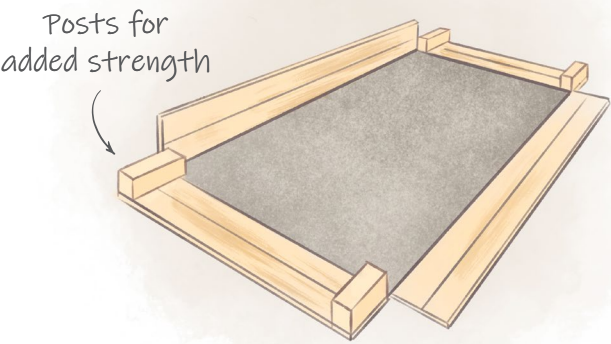


BED DEPTH EXAMPLE

BUILDING YOUR RAISED GARDEN BED

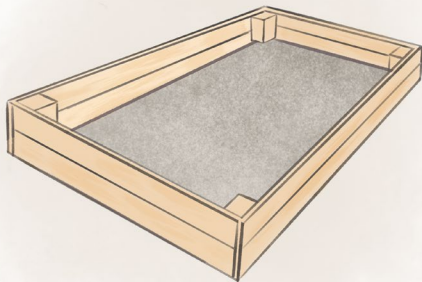
STEP 1: MEASURING AND CUTTING YOUR WOOD PANELS

Measure out the length of the walls and cut the 2 x 4's to the desired lengths. You can also cut additional posts to install along the inner wall if needed for added strength.



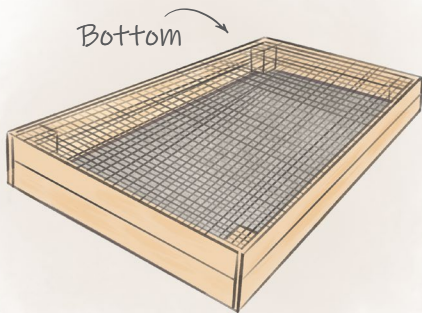
STEP 2: CONNECTING WOOD PANELS

Move the cut boards into position and then connect the boards for each wall - use a clamp if needed. If you cut additional interior posts attach them as well. Screw the planks together using the decking screws. Drill pilot holes first and then the screws themselves.



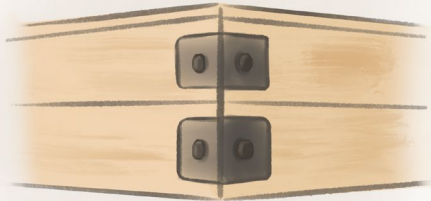
STEP 3: INSTALLING WIRE MESH

Staple wide mesh hardware cloth to the bottom of the frame. This mesh will help keep the weeds out. If the wood you have is not rot-resistant, you might also staple heavy duty plastic along the inner walls.



STEP 4: INSTALLING DECORATIVE ANGLES

Now you are ready to add your National decorative angles. Attach them to the corners of your raised bed, centered on each wood panel. First use your drill to create 3/8" (9.5 mm) holes and then attach with provided fasteners.



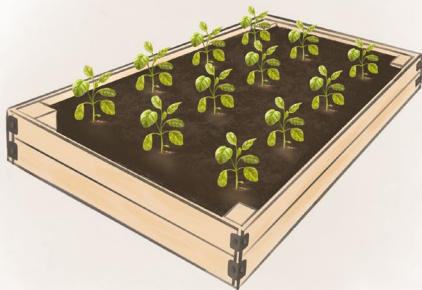
STEP 5: ADD RAISED BED SOIL

Garden soil is not ideal for raised garden beds as it can become compacted and stop drainage. Instead, be sure to use bagged soil specifically designed for raised beds, which also has benefits of being sterilized to kill any weed seeds, insects, or diseases in it.



STEP 6: ADD YOUR PLANTS

Now for the fun part! When planting within the boundaries of your raised bed, think about the scale and mature size of your desired plants to ensure you have enough room. See pages 8-9 for examples of vegetables and flowers that work well in raised garden beds.



CROPS THAT WORK WELL FOR A RAISED GARDEN BED

FRUIT OR VEGETABLE THEME

There is nothing more satisfying and delicious than growing your own food. A garden filled with beautiful, thriving plants provides a great sense of accomplishment—and fresh, healthy ingredients you can enjoy all year long.



ROOT VEGETABLES



MELONS



LEAF VEGETABLES



TOMATOES

FLOWER THEME

Looking for more of a flower garden vibe? The below are just a small list of all the great options we recommend. Another idea is to planting alternating rows of seasonal flowers so that you have something blooming all year round.



BORAGE



NASTURTIIUMS



CALENDULA



SUNFLOWERS



LAVENDER



COSMOS



SWEET PEAS



PHACELIA

CREATE A SALAD GARDEN BED THEME

This one is for all the salad lovers. A salad garden bed is proof of how much edible goodness you can actually grow with very little space, very little effort, and very little time. Below are some ingredients to help get you started.



LETTUCE



BABY SPINACH



TOMATOES (CAGED)



RADISHES



CARROTS



RED ONIONS

CREATE A SALSA GARDEN BED THEME

Who doesn't like fresh salsa in the summer? Planning your garden bed around salsa ingredients will ensure you have fresh salsa and other healthy meals all summer long. Below are some ingredients to help get you started.



CILANTRO



YELLOW ONIONS



PEPPERS



TOMATILLOS



TOMATOES (CAGED)



GARLIC

CREATE AN HERB GARDEN BED

Growing herb gardens is one of the easiest and delicious ways to start gardening. By starting an herb garden you can add beauty to your garden and lots of flavor to your meals. Below are some essential herbs to help get you started.



MINT



BASIL



SAGE



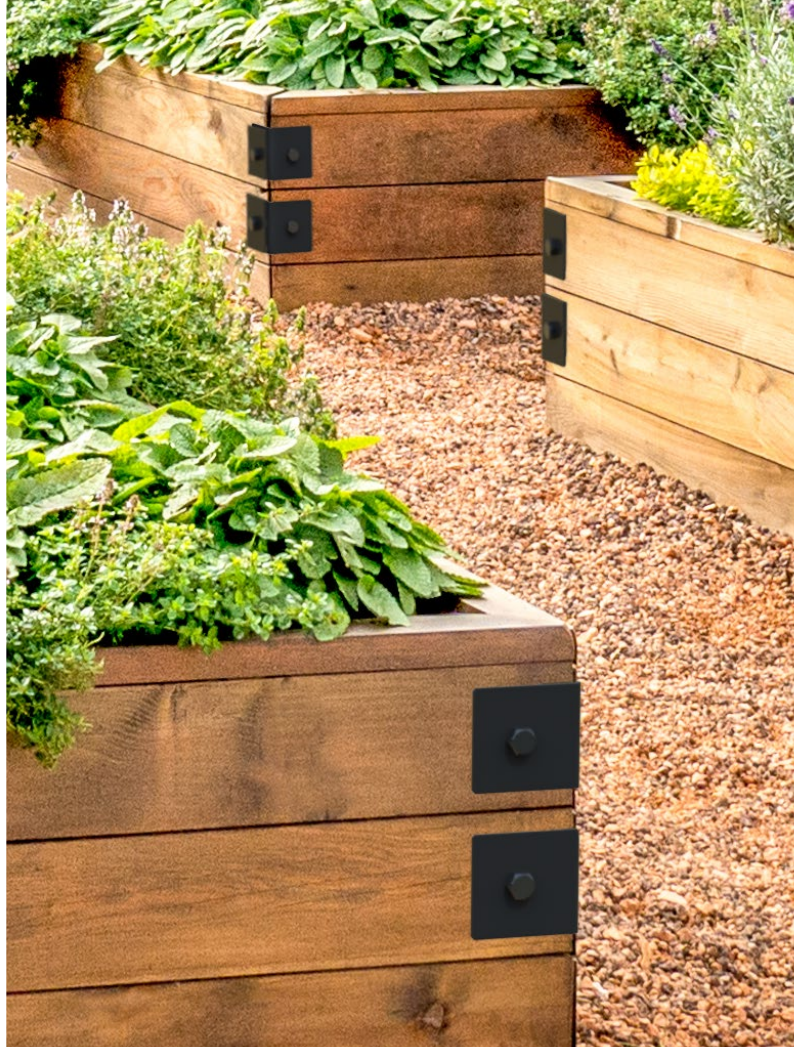
ROSEMARY



THYME



PARSLEY



*Made By Me*TM

SHOW US YOUR PROJECT

Share your finished project on social media using **#MadeXMe** for a chance to be featured or win another Made by MeTM box.

@nationalhardware



For more information, visit us at:
www.national-hardware.com/madexme

