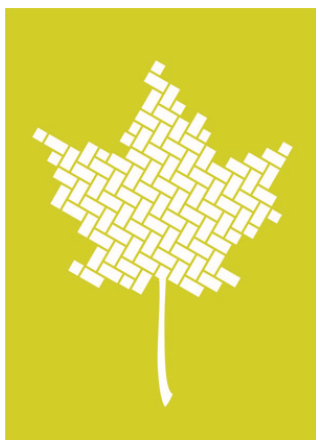


DIY—Build a Raised Garden Bed



**PARKS &
PEOPLE**
FOUNDATION

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Untreated lumber –
[For a 4'x4' bed: Four 2"x10"x4' boards](#)
[For a 4'x8' bed: Two 2"x10"x8' boards and two 2"x10"x4' boards](#)
[For both types: four 2"x4"x10" corner pieces](#)
- 24 3-in. galvanized or stainless screws/bolts
- Drill
- Landscaping fabric (4' wide) or thick cardboard to place barrier between new and old soil

Benefits of Raised Beds:

- Customize soil/compost
- Built-in soil drainage and aeration, allowing plant roots to easily penetrate the soil
- Prevent soil compaction
- Reduce back-bending when tending bed
- Extend growing season because above-ground soil warms up earlier than ground soil
- Sides prevent soil erosion, weeds from entering, etc.
- Easy to use the space for square foot gardening which involves spacing plants close together for maximum efficiency and less weeds/water/work
- Ideal for growing edibles in a city because you don't need to amend your soil. This is relevant for Baltimore, where often there is clay, lead and other contaminants in the soil.



Before You Start:

- Choose a location with good sunlight and adequate space for the size of bed you would like to build. Most recommend the long side of the bed face south, with the shortest plants on the Southern-most side of the bed.
- Choose type of lumber. Avoid treated wood. Try **pine** (affordable, lasts 3-7 years), **redwood** (more expensive, limited availability, naturally rot and insect-resistant), or **cedar** (most expensive, lasts 10-15 years, naturally rot- and insect-resistant).
- Choose size of frame:
 - 4'x4': Manageable size for beginners that allows gardeners to reach the center of the bed from all sides.
 - 4'x8': Great if you want more growing space but small enough to reach across.
- Choose soil: Some experts recommend 50% screened topsoil and 50% high-quality compost. Others suggest "Mel's Mix," comprised of 1/3 compost, 1/3 peat moss, and 1/3 vermiculite or perlite. However, there is controversy over using peat moss (a nonrenewable resource) as a soil amendment. Visit www.gardeninginraisedbeds.com/raised-bed-soil-mix/the-perfect-soil-mixture-for-filling-your-raised-bed for more information.
- Calculate your soil needs: Visit www.gardeners.com/Soil-Calculator/7558,default,pg.html
- Consider bed depth based on desired crops: The most common height is ~10"-11". Building cross-supports is recommended for a bed taller than 18". For information on rooting depths of different crop types, visit <http://eartheasy.com/raised-beds-soil-depth-requirements.html>

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www.parksandpeople.org · 410-448-5663

WHERE TO FIND MATERIALS IN OR NEAR BALTIMORE:

Lumber/Building Materials:

- **The Loading Dock**
410-558-3625
2 North Kresson St.
www.loadingdock.org
Sells salvaged surplus building materials otherwise headed for landfills. Make sure lumber is clean and untreated, especially when intended for vegetable beds.
- **83 Lumber**
53 West Timonium Rd.
Timonium, MD 21093
410-561-0184

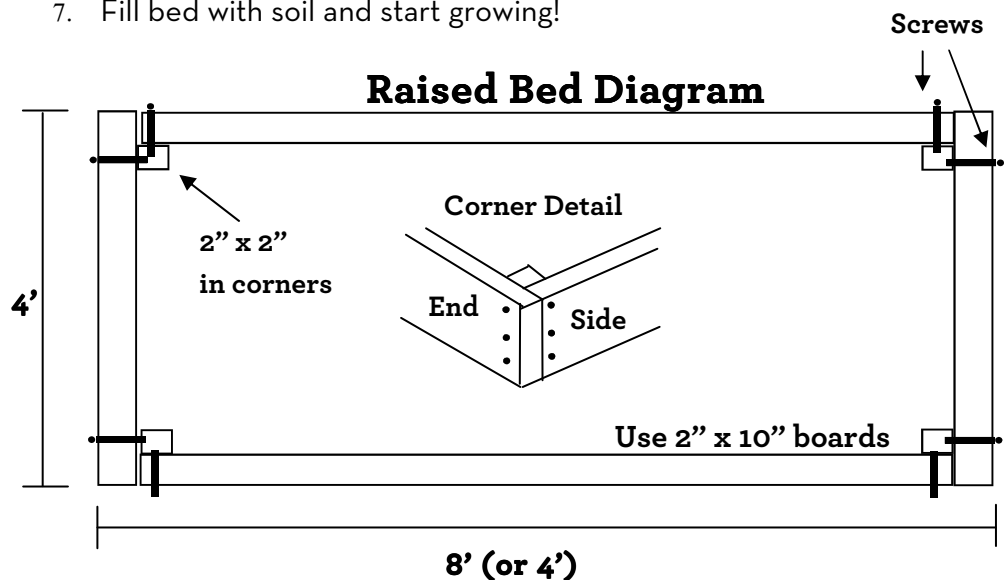
Compost and Soil:

- **Chesapeake Compost Works**
410-355-1730 4501
Curtis Ave. #14
- **East Coast Organics**
410-889-8784
2400 Sisson St.
www.eastcoastorganics.com
- **Green Fields Nursery**
410-323-3444
5424 Falls Rd.
www.greenfieldsnursery.com
- **Hamilton Crop Circle**
910-200-9181
hamiltoncropcircle@gmail.com
www.realtimfarm.com/farm/4834025/hamilton-crop-circle
- **Hollins Organic**
410-828-0210
6247 Falls Rd.
sales@hollinsorganic.com
www.hollinsorganic.com
- **King Mulch**
410-682-2992
7941 Pulaski Highway or
1112 Hengemihle Ave.
kingmulch@verizon.net
www.kingmulch.com
- **Meyers Seed**
410-342-4224
600 S Caroline St.
info@meyerseedco.com

Instructions:

1. If the ground you are planning to use has never been used for gardening, it is recommended that you dig to a depth of ~16"–24" and till this soil. By doing this, you can remove rocks and debris, as well as check for large root systems that may take up nutrients from the soil. If you plan to dig on your site, please call MISS Utility (1-800-257-7777) for information on buried pipes and lines. You can also assess the condition of the underlying soil to determine which amendments may be needed. (For more information, visit www.gardeners.com/Building-Healthy-Soil/5060,default,pg.html)
2. To discourage weeds and deep root growth in ground soil, you can put a barrier of cardboard and landscaping fabric down. It's best to lay down a thick layer of cardboard first, followed by the fabric and then the soil. Also, add woodchips surrounding the bed to minimize weed invasion.
3. Use a shovel or rake to level the area if it is not.
4. Position each 2"x4"x10" corner piece of wood onto both ends of two 4' boards. Drill three screws loosely into place at each corner.
5. Align one of the 8' boards (or another 4' board, if making a 4'x4' bed) flush with the 4' board to make a right angle at the corner. Drill another three screws from the outside of the 8' board into corner post and the edge of the 4' board.
6. Repeat until frame is made. Tighten screws if needed.
7. Fill bed with soil and start growing!

For a video demonstration, visit <https://extension.umd.edu/news/video/how-build-raised-bed>



If you have more questions or want additional support, join the **Community Greening Resource Network (CGRN)**. You will have access to free seedlings, educational workshops, and other gardening materials to bring your garden to life!