

building a raised bed

WITH KEVIN ESPIRITU

TIME: 1 hour

MATERIALS:

- 1 pencil
- 1 measuring tape
- 1 circular or miter saw
- 1 pair of safety goggles
- 1 pair of gloves
- ~20 3" deck screws
- drill
- 1 3/32" drill bit
- 32 sq. ft. of landscape fabric
- 32 sq. ft. of hardware cloth
- 1 pair of scissors
- 1 pair of tin snips
- 1 staple gun
- 2 12'x1' boards
- 4 10" sections of 4"x4" board
- 1 speed square
- soil
- mulch

CUTTING YOUR BOARDS

1. Using your pencil and measuring tape, measure and mark four feet on your first board. Use the square to draw a straight line across your board using the mark you measured. Use your saw to cut the board along your marked line. Repeat this process for your remaining 12' board.

TIP: Always use your safety goggles and gloves when handling the saw or any power tool.

2. Next, use your measuring tape and pencil to mark four 10" sections on the 4x4 piece of wood. Then, using the square, draw a straight line across the board at your mark. Cut along the line. Repeat with the remaining three sections.

FITTING YOUR BED

3. In the place where your bed will be, line the boards up in a rectangle so the two 4' pieces are the top and bottom and the two 8' pieces are the sides.

SECURING YOUR BED

4. With the boards lined up, take your drill and bit and drill three pilot holes into the corner where the boards meet. Then using the 3" deck screws and your drill, secure the boards together. For added stability, place one 4x4 inside every corner and secure them together using 3" deck screws.

PROTECTING YOUR BED

5. Lay out the landscape fabric over your bed and lay the hardware cloth on top of that. Using scissors for the landscape fabric and tin snips for the hardware cloth, trim the excess around the edges of the bed. Finally, using the staple gun, staple them both to the frame of the bed. Flip over your bed.

FILLING YOUR BED

6. Now that the bed is flipped over, fill your bed with soil. The correct amount of soil to use is easily figurable by multiplying the length of your bed times the width times the height. After your bed is full, dump a layer of mulch on top, spread it out, and then water your bed.

PLANTING YOUR PLANTS

7. Dig holes large enough for the plants you have selected. Put each plant into its hole and cover the roots with soil and then the mulch. Once your plants are in, water your bed.