

How to Build a Super Easy 4 x 8 Raised Bed

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Make this easy 4- by 8-foot raised bed from 3 8-foot boards that you can have cut to size at the store. One 8-foot board needs to be cut into 2 4-foot sections. To build it, all you do is screw the boards together at the corners. We used 2x12 boards for beds 12 inches deep, but 2x10 or 2x8 boards will also create beds deep enough for planting.

List of Materials

- 2 - 8-foot 2x12 boards
- 2 - 4-foot 2x12 boards
- 3½-inch deck screws
- 12 32-quart bags of potting mix
- shovel
- cordless drill



Step 1
First, mark off a 4- by 8-foot rectangle where you want your bed. Take up the grass and make sure that the ground is level.



Step 2
To build the bed, fasten the boards at the corners by screwing together in 3 or 4 places with 3-inch deck screws. Pre-drill the holes to prevent splitting.



Step 3
When the frame is complete, check to see that it fits level on the ground. If it rocks, move it aside to shave off any high points in the soil with your shovel.



Step 4
Put the frame back in place and fill it with good soil. You can buy garden soil or potting mix in bags, or mix half your native soil with half homemade compost.



Step 5
Wind a 25-foot soaker hose up and down the bed for easy watering. Hold the soaker in place with pins used for landscape fabric or make your own pins from 1-foot lengths of bailing wire folded in half.



Step 6
Plant your veggies and herbs alongside the soaker hoses. Mulch the bed with organic mulch to keep the soil moist and prevent weeds; avoid a fine mulch such as compost, because it can clog soaker hoses. Turn on the soaker to water deeply. You may need to use a sprinkler the first time to make sure that all the soil is evenly moist.