



BUILDING A RAISED BED FRAME

Materials

(3) 2" x 8" x 8'
hardwood boards

(4) Simpson Strong-Tie
ZMAX 18-Gauge
Galvanized Framing
Angle (Model A35Z)

(32) Simpson Strong-Tie
Strong-Drive #8 x 1-1/4"
Wafer-Head Screws

(4) Simpson Strong-Tie
16-Gauge 1-1/2" x 6"
Nail Stop (Model NS2)

Tools

Power drill

3/32 drill bit

Phillips-head
screwdriver bit

Hammer

Pencil

Questions?

Call 978.598.3723 x802 or email
staff@growingplaces.org

Prepping the Lumber

GET IT STRAIGHT. | CUT IT EXACTLY.

At the lumber yard, select straight hardwood boards, avoiding any pressure-treated, bowed, damaged or heavily flawed material. If possible, avoid boards with large knots near the ends where you will be attempting to drill holes.

If you're new to working with lumber, it's important to be aware that lumber measurements are not exact. A 2" x 8" x 8' board will not measure exactly 2" in width or 8' in length due to the natural variations in the wood planing process. If you have the tools to do so at home, you will want to trim your boards to the exact lengths specified.

If you don't have power tools for this kind of job, don't worry. Most large hardware stores will cut lumber to exact specifications for you for a small fee (usually 2 free cuts, then 50 cents a cut). To construct one 4' x 8' raised bed, you will need to ask for three 2" x 8" x 8' boards, one cut into two 4' lengths and the other two trimmed to exactly 8'. Watch that they do not cut the first board only once. The second 4' length will also need to be trimmed since the board was not exactly 8' to start.

Attaching the Angles

MEASURE THE ANGLE PLACEMENT. | PREDRILL HOLES. | SCREW IN THE ANGLES.

Now that you have your lumber cut, the first step in assembly is attaching the angles to the 8' boards. This is a two-person job, so grab a friend to help you. The goal is to construct a rectangular frame with four 90° angles. Because your boards are not exactly 2", it will be important to use your actual lumber as your guide for measurement. On as flat and level a surface as you can find, lay out your two 8' boards. Ask your friend to hold one 4' board perpendicular to the end of an 8' board (Fig. 1). Take an angle and position it snugly in the corner created by the two boards. With a pencil, mark three drill holes using the angle as your guide. Repeat this step for each end of each 8' board and then set the 4' board aside.

Next, pre-drill holes at each pencil mark. Affix the angles with the screws to the ends of each 8' board.

Assembling the Frame

SQUARE UP THE CORNERS. | MARK THE ANGLE PLACEMENT. | SCREW IN THE SHORT SIDES

Ideally, this step is done with the assistance of 5' pipe clamps to help ensure that your frame is square. If you have them, use them! If not, here's how you can manage without them.

Stand your two angle-affixed 8' boards on end with the angle sides facing each other.

Position a 4' board so that it creates a third side to your frame (fig. 2). As much as possible,

keep the corners squared up with one another. Using your pencil and the angle as your guide, mark three drill holes. Lay the 4' board flat to pre-drill the holes. Return it to position and drill in the screws to fasten the first side of your frame. Repeat the process for the fourth side of the frame. Note, this will be the most difficult side to square up if you are not

using clamps to help you. Do your best, but remember what you are building: a garden frame, not fine cabinetry. It doesn't have to be perfect in order for the frame to function.

Adding Stability

PLACE NAIL STOPS ON FRAME CORNERS. | SCREW STOPS IN PLACE.

With your frame sides screwed together, the only step left is to screw in nail stops to add more stability to the frame. Place a stop on each corner. Hammer them in place, then pre-drill a hole and screw in place. **Congratulations! You've completed your raised bed frame!**

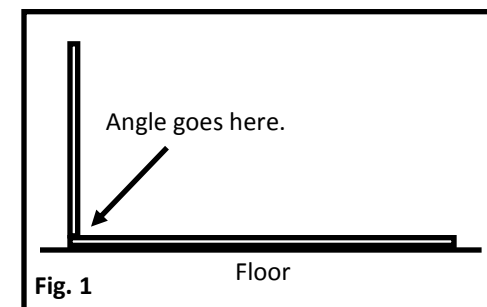


Fig. 1

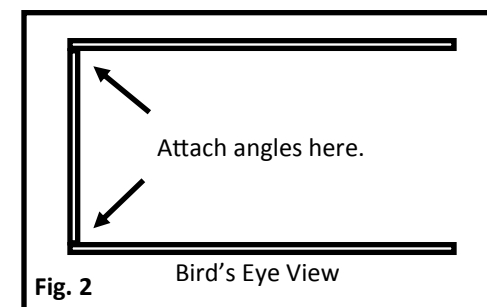


Fig. 2

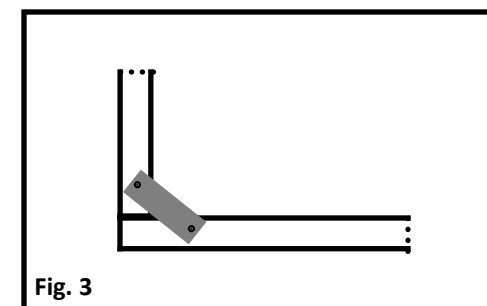


Fig. 3