



HOW TO BUILD A RAISED SLEEPER BED



Raised beds constructed using new railway sleepers are an attractive and superb aesthetic feature for any garden as well as providing optimal growing conditions for plants, fruits and vegetables.

Raised beds are ideal for gardens of all shapes and sizes as they are entirely customisable and can be built in a way that works around your existing garden features.

Features:

- Provide optimal growing conditions
- Improve drainage
- Increased soil temperature
- Enhanced root health
- Complete control over soil composition

Material:

- Sleepers
- Hex Head Screws (240mm/250mm)
- Weed Membrane
- Timber Cut End Preserver
- Top Soil



1 PLAN, MEASURE & PREP THE AREA

Plan

You need to firstly decide where you are going to put your raised bed

Don't Forget: Plants often need high levels of sunlight to grow, whereby some food crops, such as salad vegetables are more suited to partial shade. So, pick a suitable spot in order to support the growth of your plants, fruits and vegetables.

Measure

Once you know the area you're going to position your raised bed, the next step is to measure the area, using a tape measure.

There is no fixed size for a raised bed, it depends on the intended use and space available.

Prep the area

Once you know the area you wish to use you need to prep the area. This means removing any shrubs, plants and roots and level the surface with a rake. Leaving a smooth, flat and obstruction free space to start the build.

Mark out

Re-measure and mark out your area, using string line and pegs (these can be found in our retail shop). Make a note of your measurements as you will need them shortly to cut your sleepers to size.

2 CUT THE SLEEPERS TO SIZE

Cut the sleepers to size using a suitable saw. Once sleepers have been cut remember to seal any cut surfaces with Timber Cut End Preserver (this can be found in our retail shop) to avoid rotting and fungal attacks.

Alternatively, if you know the sizes you require when purchasing your sleepers, we offer a cutting service.





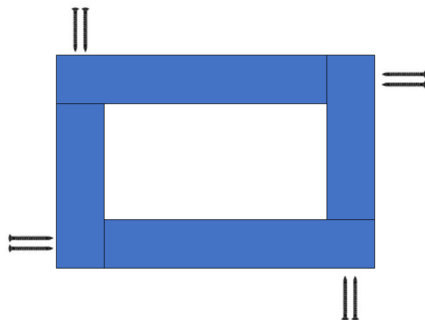
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3 LAY YOUR FOUNDATION

Lay the sleepers out with the short side on the ground, interlocking in the pattern shown. Fix each corner with two 250mm timber screws – you may find it easier to pre drill the holes for these.

For additional support screw joist hangers (L shaped brackets) to the internal corners for added strength.



4 BUILDING UP YOUR RAISED BED

Further layers of sleepers can then be added to raise the bed to the required height. Lay the next layer of sleepers on top, ensuring the corner joins overlap as with bricklaying. Join the sleepers together as before, then attach the two layers by drilling down through each corner with two 250mm timber screws.

You may wish to stop at two layers, but if you're opting for added height, repeat this step with further layers until you achieve the desired raised sleeper height.

5 ADD A WEED MEMBRANE

Line the inside of the sleeper walls and bottom of the raised bed with weed suppressing membrane. This will help prevent any weeds growing up from below whilst allowing free drainage of the soil.

If you are laying your raised bed on a hard surface such as a patio or concrete it is also advised to add a layer of 10mm gravel to assist drainage.

6 FILL YOUR RAISED BED

Fill your raised bed with your chosen soil or compost and leave for a week before planting.

Please note: it is important to decide what you want to grow in your raised bed before you fill the bed with soil as different plants require different soil compositions.

