



## Garden Bed Assembly & Maintenance



# Assembly:

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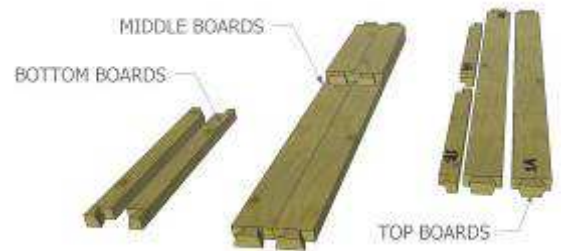
## Things you may need:

- Garden bed kit which includes timber, screws and allen key
  - Lining kit which includes lining and nails
  - Spade, shovel and mattock
  - Hammer
  - Spirit Level
  - String Line
  - Bricks, broken or similar for sitting corners on
  - Wicking bed or watering system components
  - Enclosure components
  - Soil
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## 1 Set aside top boards, lining, bag/s of screws & nails

Top boards have:

- Bed Number 1, 2, 3... and Corner Letter A or B written in opposing corners.
- Holes Drilled for corner screws
- Smooth tops



## 2 Place the two bottom boards in position

It's a good idea to take the time to get the heights and positions right before putting too many boards in place. Position the boards approximately and adjust using level, string line or your eye. Having the beds level reduces water run off and looks good.

**TIP: Use bricks to support each corner. This makes leveling easier and if you have the timber sitting off the ground about 2cm it will help it last a long time.**



## 3 Stack the generic-middle boards onto the bed

Remember that the widest part of the Dovetail joint goes to the inside. It's easy to place the boards inside out so keep an eye on the dovetail joint.



## 4 Stack the top boards on to the bed

When positioning the tops look for matching labels. For example bed one will have 1A-1A in one corner and 1B-1B in the opposite corner, then the next bed; 2A-2A etc.



# Assembly continued:

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## 5 Screw in the screws provided

Each bed comes with four screws, one for every top corner. There should also be an Allen key in the bag to tighten the screws. It can help to put some weight on the top board when screwing the screw in – sitting on the top board can work well.

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## 6 Install the plastic lining

Put the plastic lining in place. With the top edge flush with the top of the bed and working from one end, drive nails in with about 100mm (~5 dimples) spacing along the top edge of the plastic. Keep the plastic tight against the timber to minimise gaps for soil to fall into.

**Tip: Double check the levels and alignment of the tops of the bed/s before filling with soil. Use a lever (spade or crow bar) to lift each corner and adjust the corner supports.**

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## 7 Install a wicking or watering system

If you intend to use a water system on your new garden bed, now is a good time to install the underground elements. At very least a rising pipe on the inside of the beds will save a bit of digging later. Similarly, if you have decided to put a self watering bed together your wicking kit should be installed at this stage.

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## 8 Attach your enclosure

If you will be installing an enclosure, such as our cloche hoops, then now is a great time to attach the frame, keeping the netting aside until the soil has gone in.

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## 9 Fill with soil

Higher beds can be filled with a layer of lower grade material. This material needs to drain and be non-hazardous. It ideally it should have a high humus content to help retain water. We offer saw shavings for local orders which can act well to suppress weeds initially and over time break down to become a beautiful humus which will promote microbial activity.

For best results, a good quality soil should be used in at least the top 300mm of your garden bed. Raised vegetable bed or tub mixes are readily available from landscape suppliers. Ensure it is high in organic matter to retain moisture.

The volume of soil needed for your order is shown on your invoice and quote.

**Tip: For a weed-free start in your new garden, consider leaving out any soils that will have weeds or their seeds.**

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### Raised Vegetable Bed Soil Mix

1 part sand  
1 part loam  
1 part compost  
1 part manure  
2+ parts composted pine bark or organic material



# Maintenance:

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We construct our garden beds using untreated, sustainably sourced Tasmanian Oak. Tasmanian Oak is the name given to a family of tree species found in Tasmania, each with varying individual characteristics and rates of decay. Timber, like all organic material, will eventually decay. Typically, Tasmanian Oak left untreated can expect a lifespan of 8-15 years when installed in direct contact with wet soil and left exposed to borers and termites.

To prolong the life of your timber garden bed and increase soil and water retention we offer a durable and food safe liner. The liner is specially designed with dimples which prevent moisture being held between the liner and the timber and rot occurring. With the liner installed and the timber sitting up off the ground a little on the corner bricks you can expect to double the life of your garden beds.

Leaving your garden beds un-oiled or coated will allow the timber colour to fade to a silvery grey. If you would like to maintain or enhance the golden colour, coating with oil or external varnish of your choice will do the job. We use penetrating oils as they preserve the timber well and won't need sanding before recoating in the future. Penetrating oils may be in the form of raw linseed oil for a natural solution or a decking or external oil that may have additives for hardness and UV stability, such as Cutek (<http://cutek.com.au/index.html>).

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