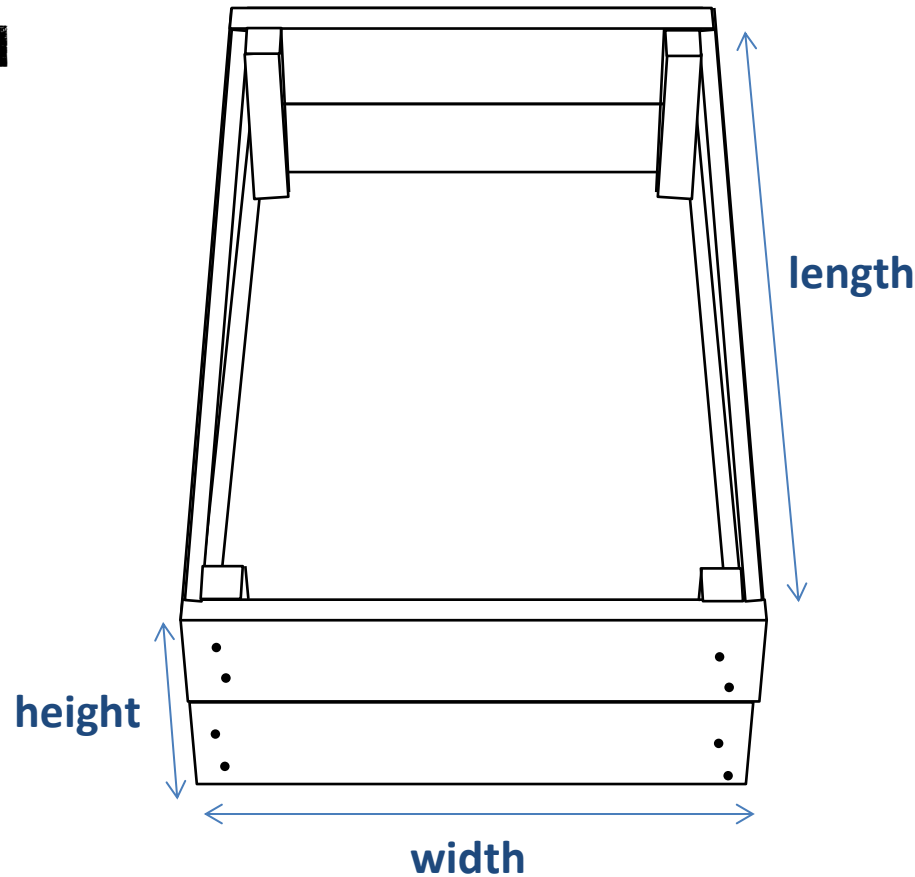


# How to make a raised bed

## 1. You will need

- A hard, level surface on which to work
- Handsaw
- Hammer or power screwdriver
- Tape measure
- Pencil
- Nails or screws – at least twice as long as the thickness of your planks
- Planks for the sides, at least 30mm thick – the other dimensions will depend on the size of your raised bed. For a raised bed two planks high, as pictured, you will need 4 pieces to make the ends, and 4 to make the sides
- Wood for the 4 corner supports. This should be at least 50mm thick
- Membrane to line the bed (optional)



## 3. Construction

Nail or screw the planks to the corner posts from the outside, allowing you to remove individual planks later if you need to replace them. Paint the outside of the bed, so it lasts longer.

## 4. Filling

Place the bed in a space where it will receive rain and at least 4 hours of direct sunlight. Fill the bed with a mixture of compost and top soil.

## 2. How big should my raised bed be?

Measure the space in which you want to put it, and think about the quantity of top soil and compost you'll need to fill it. The volume of the bed (the amount of top soil and compost required) will be length x width x height.

When judging the width, make sure you can reach the middle – or the other side if you'll only be accessing it from one side.

The length can be as long as the lengths of wood available to you (for example scaffold boards are 2.4 m long and most commercial timber is 3.6m or 4.8m long).

The height should be at least 20cm. This allows plants to develop roots. Deep-rooting vegetables like parsnips and potatoes will need more. 40cm should be deep enough for any common vegetables. The height will be a multiple of the height of the planks