

Building Your Raised Garden Bed



What you need

1. A Raised Garden Bed / Steel Veggie Tank
2. Old newspaper or builder's plastic.
3. Poor quality soil, rubble, rocks or straw bales. Typically one and a half times more than good growing medium. (see point 4 below). NB: straw bales will rot over a few months, and soil level will collapse.
4. Good quality soil for growing plants – high organic matter. As a guide you will require approximately this volume of soil for these examples (calculated for 300mm soil depth):

For quality soil we use:

Greenlife Soil Company Ph: 9250 4575, 178 Farrall Road Midvale and
Mundaring Landscape Supplies. 5 Moata Pl. 92953666.

- a) Round garden bed 1.5 diameter. Vol = 0.5 m³.
 - b) Slimline garden bed (L) 2m x (W) 0.8m. Vol = 0.5 m³.
 - c) L-Shape garden bed (L) 2m x (W) 0.8m. Vol = 1.0 m³.
 - d) Rectangular garden bed (L) 2m x (W) 1m. Vol = 0.6 m³.
5. Irrigation pipe and fittings, drip line, wire (J) pegs, (or simply hand water).
 6. Plants – vegetables, herbs or other small shrubs.
 7. Mulch – cheap shredded street prunings will do (optional).



What you do

1. Position raised garden bed / tank on level ground.
2. Install irrigation standpipe or header pipe under bottom edge and upwards (irrigation pipe can be installed on the outside of bed also).
3. Half to two-thirds fill bed with poor soil, rubble, mulch, straw bales (typically 3 to 5 bales).
4. Place layers of newspaper sheets (10-12 sheets is sufficient) or lay black builders plastic over the poor soil/straw bales. This prevents good soil sinking into the poor soil/straw bale layer too fast.
5. Fill the rest of the bed with good quality soil/compost to about 5cm from top of raised garden bed.
6. Plants all of your herbs, vegies or other plants throughout your bed. Best to mix plants together as in companion planting.
7. Water your plants in well. Regular watering is advisable until plants are established.
8. Install dripline irrigation, weaving around plants and seedlings. Peg dripline down with wire (J pins). Alternatively hand-water your plants.
9. To reduce water evaporation, you could cover the soil with a layer of mulch.

