



# Natural Picnic Table #4257

## Assembly Instructions

***Please open and inspect all items upon receipt. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us immediately.***



### Quality Commitment

Thank you for your shared commitment to connecting children with nature and your support of children's life-long learning. Nature Explore is dedicated to providing quality, research-based educational materials for your outdoor spaces, as well as outdoor classroom design services and educator workshops.

Our natural products are field-tested by trained educators who observe children using them in play—focusing on safety, educational-value and versatility—prior to being offered in the Resource Guide. Our natural products, such as wooden instruments, tables or balance beams, are hand-crafted by trusted professionals who support our shared mission. All natural products are constructed of materials carefully selected for functionality, safety and durability.

We encourage you to contact us with questions or for more information on our natural products and services. If inquiring about a past or existing order, please have your order number handy (Ex: SO90001234) so we may answer your questions and provide additional information as needed. **All of our warranty, return and exchange policies can be found online or sent by request. Please contact us at [service@natureexplore.org](mailto:service@natureexplore.org) or 1-888-908-8733.**

*All items created by and manufactured exclusively for Nature Explore are done so in accordance with all relevant and applicable safety standards and recommendations as set forth by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission and ASTM International. Be sure to consider additional regulations that may be unique to your site.*

# How to Assemble a Picnic Table

**Recommended Ages:** 2-8

**Recommended Crew:** 2-3 adults

**Average Assembly Time:** 1.5-2.5 hours

 **When using volunteer labor, make sure that the person assembling the Picnic Table has the necessary skill level.**

 **Do not allow children to play on or near equipment that is in need of repair/replacement, is incomplete or considered unsafe as serious injury may occur.**

## Before you begin:

- Please read and follow all safety information.
- Please review assembly and installation diagrams.
- Verify component and hardware quantities received.
- Familiarize yourself with installation procedures.
- Consult local building codes and regulations.

**Natural wood products such as this will check, crack and possibly warp over time.** This is not a defect in the product, but a natural process that should be expected and can offer additional learning opportunities for children.

**This product is NOT water-tight or weather-proof.** It comes with an initial application of SoySeal Wood Sealer and Waterproofers. Annual to bi-annual reapplication of SoySeal, or your preferred commercial water-seal, can extend the useful life of this item. Check with local building codes, playground experts, and wood preservation experts for the local rules and regulations to ensure best practices are implemented. Also, (optional) caulking along the seams (interior and exterior) of this item after assembly may improve functionality and extend its useful life.

## Inspection & Maintenance:

**Inspect** this item before each use.

- Ensure item is stable on the ground (level surface)
- Check to see that legs are secure and bolts/screws are snug, but not over tightened
- Confirm the absence of any structurally-compromising cracks
- Ensure surfaces are smooth and splinter-free

**General Maintenance** should be performed monthly-quarterly as needed to help reduce potential injuries and extend the life of your natural product.

- Sand to remove any splinters
- Tighten all screws/bolts to ensure they are snug, but not overtightened

**Annual to Bi-annual Maintenance** should be performed as needed depending on your preference and local climate.

- Re-apply your preferred commercial wood-protector or water-seal. This item came with an initial application of SoySeal Wood Sealer and Waterproofers (more information on SoySeal is found on the last pages of this guide or online)
- ALWAYS check with local building codes, playground experts and wood preservation experts for the local rules and regulations.

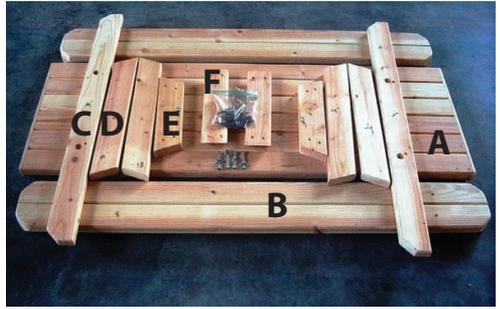
**MSDS Documents for SoySeal Wood Sealer and Waterproofers are available on our website or upon request.**

### Tools Needed:

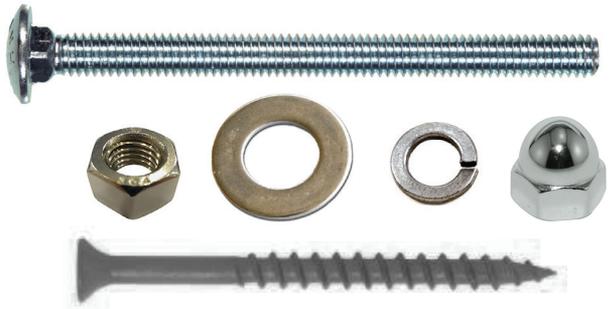
1. Socket wrench
2. 1/4" Socket
3. #2 Phillips-head screwdriver

### Parts List:

- 1 - Table top (A)
- 2 - Bench tops (B)
- 2 - Seat supporters (C)
- 4 - Leg supporters (D)
- 2 - Leg braces (E)
- 2 - Leg stabilizers (F)



- 4 - 3" Carriage bolts
- 4 - 1/4" Nuts
- 4 - Flat washers
- 4 - Split-lock washers
- 4 - Cap nuts
- 32 - 2 1/2" Screws



**1** Lay the table top on a smooth flat surface face down.



2 - Leg Braces (D)

**2** Find the 4 leg supports (D) (approximately 21" long with 45° angle ends. 1 will be marked '1', and 2 will be marked '2') and 2 leg braces (E).



4 - Leg Supports (E)

**3** Place the 2 leg supports marked '1A' & '1B' on the table with the corresponding leg brace also marked with '1A' & '1B'. Align with the top of the leg supports, making sure the ends are flush.

**4** Insert the 4 - 2 ½" screws into the pre-drilled holes of the leg brace. Tighten securely, but be sure not to over-tighten as this will crack and/or split the wood.

**5** Repeat Steps 5 & 6 for leg supports & brace marked '2A' & '2B'.

**6** Turn the leg assembly over and align the corresponding seat supports (C) (Approximately 31" long) with their corresponding number ('1A', '2A', etc.)

**7** Insert the 2 - 2 ½" screws into the pre-drilled holes of each seat support. Tighten securely, but be sure not to over-tighten.

**8** Insert a 3" carriage bolt into the pre-drilled holes of each seat support.

**9** Place a flat washer, split-lock washer, and nut on each carriage bolt and tighten securely, but be sure not to over-tighten. Repeat for the other leg brace/leg support assembly.

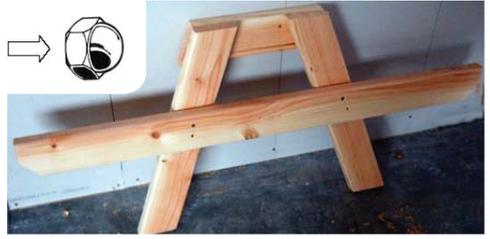
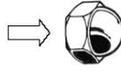
**!** Over-tightening screws & bolts will cause the wood to crack and/or split.



**2 - Seat Supports (C)**



- 10** Place the remaining cap nut on the end and tighten. **Do not over-tighten.** Each leg assembly should look like this:



- !** **Over-tightening screws & bolts will cause the wood to crack and/or split.**

- 11** Place leg assembly '1' on the table top with its corresponding number. Align the pre-drilled holes and insert 2 - 2 1/2" screws. Tighten securely, but be sure not to over-tighten.



- 12** Repeat **Step 11** for the leg assembly '2'.

- 13** Place a leg stabilizer (F) as shown below, making sure the corresponding letters align. Insert the 4 - 2 1/2" screws (2 in each end) into the pre-drilled holes and tighten securely, but be sure not to over-tighten.



- 14** Repeat **Step 13** for the Leg Assembly '2'.

- 15** Turn the table over and stand it on its legs. Place the bench top 'A-B' on the seat supports, making sure the corresponding letters align. Insert 4 - 2 1/2" screws into the pre-drilled holes (1 on each end of the bench tops). Tighten securely, but be sure not to over-tighten.



- 16** Repeat **Step 15** for the bench top 'C-D'. **Your picnic table is now complete and ready for use.**

## Important Facts About Natural Wood Products

Nature Explore field-tested components are made of natural materials that bring children in close contact with the beautiful patterns and colors of nature. Due to the nature of raw and untreated wood, you will notice graining, knots, checking (a natural cracking process that occurs as wood releases moisture across the annual growth rings), and in rare instances, insects. This is not a defect in the product, but a natural process that should be expected. Additionally, unfinished wood will naturally develop a beautiful silvery-gray patina over time.

Below are some examples of what you may encounter and can expect with your order:

Natural Cracking and Checking



Knots, Branches, Etc.



## Extending the Life of your Natural Wood Products

Nature Explore items such as Tree Cookies, Natural Balance Beams, Marimbas, At-Ease Benches, etc. are natural, untreated wood products that require regularly scheduled, routine maintenance in order to maintain safety and extend the life of the item. Some items will arrive with an initial coat of sealant while others are left untreated (please refer to product overview & specifications). It is our recommendation that you apply an initial sealant and maintain a schedule of reapplication annually to biannually to extend the life of your product. When considering treatment options we advise seeking the expertise of local wood workers, lumber yards, general contractors, etc. to understand which options are most effective and safe for your area. Routine sanding of the tops, sides and interior (if applicable) surfaces of the item will minimize splinters, reduce the chance of mildew and extend the life of your product. As your natural wood product becomes acclimated to your local environment, and sometimes even occurring in the transit process, a mildew discoloration will appear. You can reduce the risk of continued mildewing by making sure your item is installed on a surface with adequate drainage such as mulch or gravel. Installing or placement directly on grass surfaces is not recommended as it allows moisture to be trapped underneath.

**Nature Explore Natural Products** are designed to bring children closer to nature and help them develop life-long learning skills. To ensure safety and effectiveness, please be sure to follow the instructions for assembly, installation, warnings, and maintenance. Failure to follow all of the instructions will void any warranty offer. Keep in mind, even properly installed Nature Explore Natural Products can present hazards to children without adequate supervision. Also be sure to check with any applicable building codes which may pertain to your outdoor space and/or use of these products.

Depending on the location and context of the outdoor classroom, the supervisors may be paid professionals (full-time park or school/child care facility staff), paid seasonal workers (college or high school students), volunteers (PTA members), or the parents of the children playing in the outdoor classroom. Ultimately the overall safety of the space depends on the quality of the supervisor's knowledge of safe play behavior. Therefore, supervisors should understand the basics of safety in an outdoor classroom.

Outdoor classroom supervisors should be aware that not all equipment and natural products are appropriate for all children who may use the outdoor classroom. Posted signs or labels indicating the appropriate age of the users should be checked before play begins, and supervisors should direct children to equipment and natural products appropriate for their age. It is also very important to recognize that younger children require more attentive supervision than older children do.

### **Building Codes:**

Variations in building codes, specific local development covenants, or site conditions may require modification to the installation of the natural product. Outdoor classroom owners are ultimately responsible for complying with all applicable permits, building codes and other regulatory requirements, and should review their outdoor classroom with local building inspectors. All appropriate building permits should be obtained prior to starting installation.

### **Liability:**

Nature Explore shall have no liability or responsibility for actions or inaction in connection with any Nature Explore Natural Product or any damage or liability that arises during the construction and/or use. Always read and observe all safety precautions provided by the Consumer Product Safety Council regarding toy safety, playground safety, and any other applicable programs. Likewise, always read and observe all safety precautions provided by any tool or equipment manufacturer consulted during installation.