



Raised Garden Bin

#6878, 6879

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 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 Raised Garden Bin

Recommended Ages: 3+



When using volunteer labor, make sure that the person assembling the raised garden bin has the necessary skill level.



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

Raised Garden Bins are NOT water-tight or weather-proof. You may want to treat with a commercial water-seal to extend the life of the unit. **Garden bins will check, crack and possibly warp over time.** Nature Explore garden bins are made of untreated wood and will endure the natural process of 'checking' or cracking as they age and adjust to your local climate. This is not a defect in the product, but a natural process that should be expected.

Maintenance:

General Maintenance - Performed every few months. This maintenance will help reduce injuries and extend the life of your raised garden bin.

- Sand to remove any splinters
- Ensure that the raised garden bin is level and sturdy on ground

Bi-annual Maintenance - Performed every other year or more based on local climate.

- Protect wood with wood a commercial wood-protector or water-seal. Check with local building codes, playground experts, and wood preservation experts for the local rules and regulations and to ask what would work best to use around children.

Tools Needed:

1. Cordless or Electric Drill with Phillips Bit
2. Wood Glue

Parts List:

- 4 - 2x4 Legs
- 2 - 2x4 Leg Stabilizers
- 1 - 7" W x 34" L Base
- 2 - 3 1/2" W x 34" L Outside Frame
- 2 - 1 1/4" W x 30 1/4" L Frame
- 2 - Angled Garden Bin Panels
- 2 - Triangular pieces
- 2 - 1 1/2" H x 1 1/2" W x 23 1/2" L Side pieces
- 2 - 7" H x 23 1/2" L Side pieces

Parts List: (Hardware)

8 - 2 1/2" Screws



26 - 1 1/2" Screws



22 - 1 1/4" Screws



1 Thoroughly read and review all instructions before you begin. Identify a level surface to place the garden bin after assembly.

2 Lay the 2x4 Legs out.



3 Apply wood glue in the cut out sections of the legs. Insert the cross piece into cut outs on the 2x4 legs and attach the cross piece using 1 1/4" screws. Repeat for other leg section.



4 Stand the legs up right with the shorter length of the 2x4 on the ground and screws facing inside. Lay the 7" W x 34" L base board in the middle of the leg assembly (approx. 8 1/4" from the inside of the legs).



5 Insert 2 1/2" screws into the pre-drilled holes and attach. *Make sure the edge of the base board is flush with the cross beam of the leg section. Repeat on the other side.



6

Find the two boards that are $3\frac{1}{2}$ " W x 34" L (these boards have 3 pre-drilled holes in each end and one in the middle of the board). Place the board so that the pre-drilled hole in the middle is facing down. Align the board with the top and sides of the leg assembly. Attach the board to the top of the leg assembly using $1\frac{1}{2}$ " screws. Repeat on the other side.

6



7

Turn the leg section on its side with the top facing you. Find the $1\frac{1}{4}$ " W x $30\frac{1}{4}$ " L piece and install it in between the upper leg section with the rounded side facing up. It should fit tight. Attach using $1\frac{1}{2}$ " screws. Repeat on other side.



8

Stand the bin upright and find the tongue and groove angled panels. These will be used for the sides of the bin. Insert them as shown below, with the pre-drilled holes facing down. Align the angle of the base board with the angles on the panel. Attach to the bottom using 1 ¼" screws. Repeat for other side.

8



9

Attach the top of the bin panel to the outside frame using 1 ½" screws. Repeat for other side.

9



- 10** Attach the triangular piece to the bottom of the base using 1 ½" screws. Repeat on other side.



- 11** Place the 1 ½" x 1 ½" x 23 ½" piece on top of the triangle piece. Attach using 2 ½" screws. Repeat on other side.

- 13** Place the 7" x 23 ½" board (this board has 5 pre-drilled holes) on top of the 1 ½" x 1 ½" x 23 ½" piece as shown. Attach using 1 ¼" screws. Repeat on other side.



Place the assembled bin on a leveled surface. Your Raised Garden Bin is now 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 Classroom resources 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 installation, building codes, warnings, and maintenance. Failure to follow all of the instructions will void any warranty offer. Furthermore, even Nature Explore Classroom resources installed and maintained in accordance with the instructions can present hazards to children in the absence of adequate supervision.

Depending on the location and nature 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. The quality of the supervision 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 items 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 appropriate for their age. It is also very important to recognize that preschool-age 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 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 item 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.