



Raised Planter Beds

#6973, 6974, 4269, 4270, 4271, 4272

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 Planter Bed

Recommended Ages: All Ages



When using volunteer labor, make sure that the person assembling the raised planter bed 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 Planter Beds are NOT water-tight or weather-proof. You may want to treat with a commercial water-seal to extend the life of the unit. ***Raised Planter Beds will check, crack and possibly warp over time.*** Nature Explore Raised Planter Beds are 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 bed is level and sturdy on ground

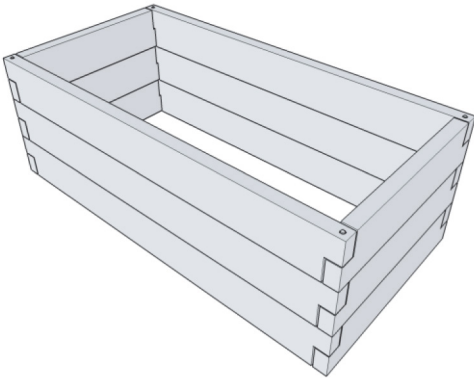
Bi-annual Maintenance - Performed every other year or more based on local climate.

- Protect wood with 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.

Parts List:

Verify component and hardware quantities received before assembling.

Tools Needed: Cordless/Electric Drill or Phillips Head Screwdriver



#6973 - 2' L x 2' W x 16 1/2" H

Parts List:	Capacity:
12 - 2' Boards	.20 Cubic Yards
4 - 16.5" Pins	

#6974 - 2' L x 2' W x 22" H

Parts List:	Capacity:
16 - 2' Boards	.27 Cubic Yards
4 - 22" Pins	

#4269 - 4' L x 2' W x 16 1/2" H

Parts List:	Capacity:
6 - 4' Boards	.38 Cubic Yards
6 - 2' Boards	
4 - 16.5" Pins	

#4271 - 4' L x 2' W x 22" H

Parts List:	Capacity:
8 - 4' Boards	.52 Cubic Yards
8 - 2' Boards	
4 - 22" Pins	

#4270 - 6' L x 2' W x 16 1/2" H

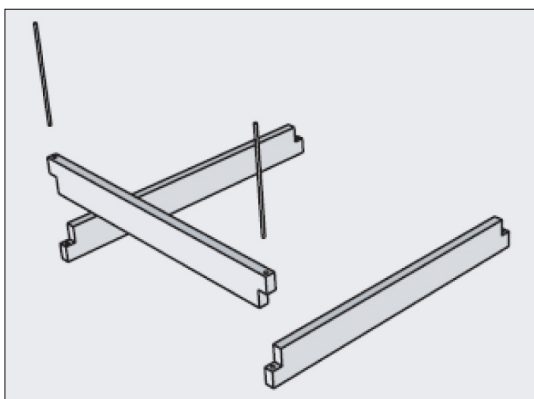
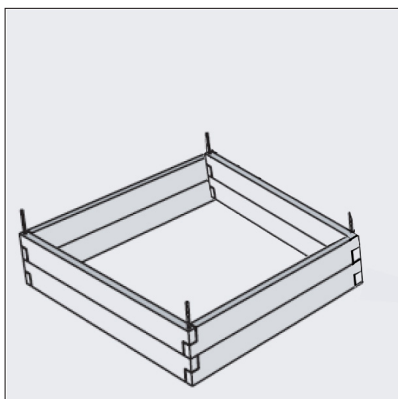
Parts List:	Capacity:
6 - 6' Boards	.57 Cubic Yards
6 - 2' Boards	
4 - 16.5" Pins	

#4272 - 6' L x 2' W x 22" H

Parts List:	Capacity:
8 - 6' Boards	.78 Cubic Yards
8 - 2' Boards	
4 - 22" Pins	

1 Thoroughly read and review all instructions before you begin. Select a location to place your assembled raised planter bed.

2 Level the ground and position the boards so the notched ends overlap and the 3/8" holes line up. Start at one end and work your way around the bed, inserting the metal pins into the holes to lock the boards together.



Your Raised Planter Bed is now complete and ready for use.



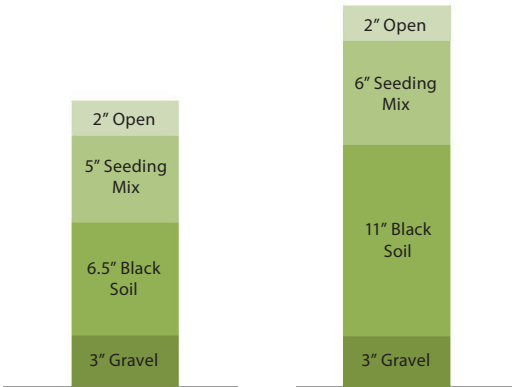
How to Fill a Raised Planter Bed

To set up raised beds on nonabsorbent surfaces, like concrete or heavily compacted dirt, you need to provide a way for water to escape from the bottom of the planter—or drainage can become a real problem. One solution is to setup your raised beds on 1"-3" of loose gravel, so that water can flow out the bottom and sides of the bed. Putting down an additional 2"-3" of rock inside of the bed will further improve drainage.

We recommend the following layers/mix of materials to give you adequate drainage and allow for maximum growth of the plants.



Note: Depending on the size of planter bed you have, it will cost you approximately \$60-\$120 to fill.



For 16.5" H Planter Bed:

- 2" Open on top
- 5" Seeding mix
- 6.5" Black soil
- 3" Gravel

For 22" H Planter Bed:

- 2" Open on top
- 6" Seeding mix
- 11" Black soil
- 3" Gravel

	#6973		#4269		#4270		#6974		#4271		#4272	
	2' L x 2' W x 16 1/2" H		4' L x 2' W x 16 1/2" H		6' L x 2' W x 16 1/2" H		2' L x 2' W x 22" H		4' L x 2' W x 22" H		6' L x 2' W x 22" H	
	Depth	Cubic Yards	Depth	Cubic Yards	Depth	Cubic Yards	Depth	Cubic Yards	Depth	Cubic Yards	Depth	Cubic Yards
Seeding Mix Black Top Soil Gravel	5"	.06	5"	.12	5"	.19	6"	.07	6"	.15	6"	.22
	6.5"	.08	6.5"	.16	6.5"	.24	11"	.14	11"	.27	11"	.41
	3"	.04	3"	.07	3"	.11	3"	.04	3"	.07	3"	.11



Helpful Tips and Information:

- **Level ground to ease assembly**

Level ground to ease assembly and promote even watering. Protruding rocks, roots, etc. or **gaps beneath** boards may result in misshapen beds. Fill in gaps with rock and soil.

Note: Please call 1-888-908-8733 for more information on additional sizes, etc.

- **For beds on lawn, smother grass with cardboard**

To set up raised beds on lawn, put down a layer of **cardboard or thick newspaper** and assemble the planter on top of this surface. The paper acts as a **barrier against weeds and grasses**, and will eventually break down, allowing roots to penetrate the native soil.

- **Provide drainage on patios, driveways, etc.**

To set up raised beds on **nonabsorbent surfaces**, like concrete or heavily compacted dirt (e.g. driveways) add **1-3 inches of loose gravel**, or similar material, to the bottom of the planter before filling it with soil. The deeper the bed, the more gravel necessary for **healthy drainage**.

- **Keep gophers out with hardware cloth**

To keep out gophers, assemble raised beds on **½" hardware cloth**. Use wire cutters to **trim the edges** so they wrap an inch or two around the sides of the planter and **secure in place** with nails or staples.

- **Add height/depth with additional vertical boards**

The height of raised beds can be increased with **additional 5.5" layers**. Assemble new layers on top of old and **stake pins to hold in place**.

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.