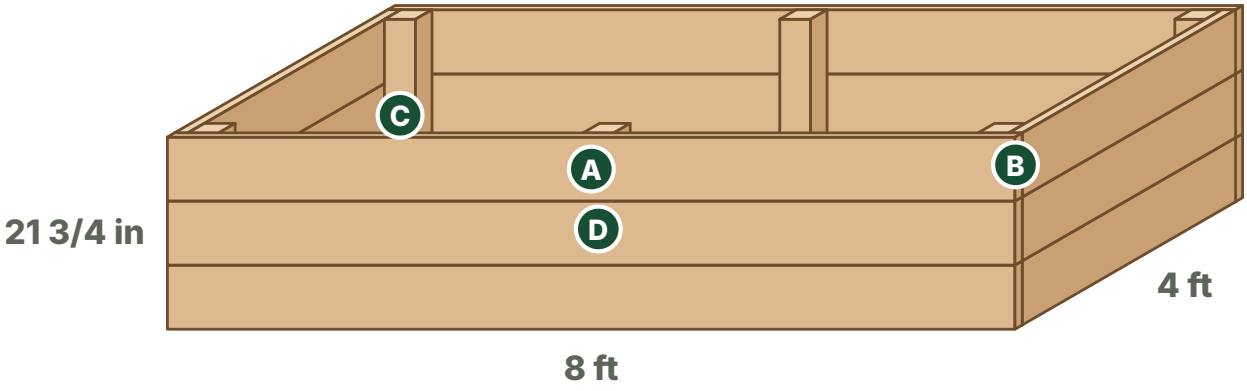
Raised Garden Bed Plans

One classic bed, three boards high · Space: 8 × 4 ft · Side boards: 2×8 (7 1/4 in) · Boards high: 3 · Longest boards you can carry: 8 ft

Bed that fits your space: **1 bed**
Each bed: **8 ft long, 4 ft wide, 21 3/4 in high**
Growing area: **29.06 sq ft**
Soil to fill: **1.95 cu yd**



This is one size of a free plan from FigureYard. For your own size, open https://figureyard.com/plans/raised-garden-bed-plans/ and enter your measurements; the shopping list, cuts and drawings change with them. Check local building codes before you build.

Shopping list

Item	Qty
2×8 lumber, 8 ft long	9 boards
4×4 post, 8 ft long	2 posts
Exterior wood screws, 3 in long, stainless or rated for treated lumber (90 needed plus 9 spares)	99 screws

Tools

- Tape measure and pencil
- Speed square or combination square
- Circular saw or miter saw
- Drill/driver, a pilot drill bit sized for your screws (see the screw box), and a driver bit that fits them
- Two clamps (they make holding boards much easier)
- Level, and a shovel or rake to flatten the ground
- Safety glasses, hearing protection, work gloves, and a dust mask when cutting treated lumber

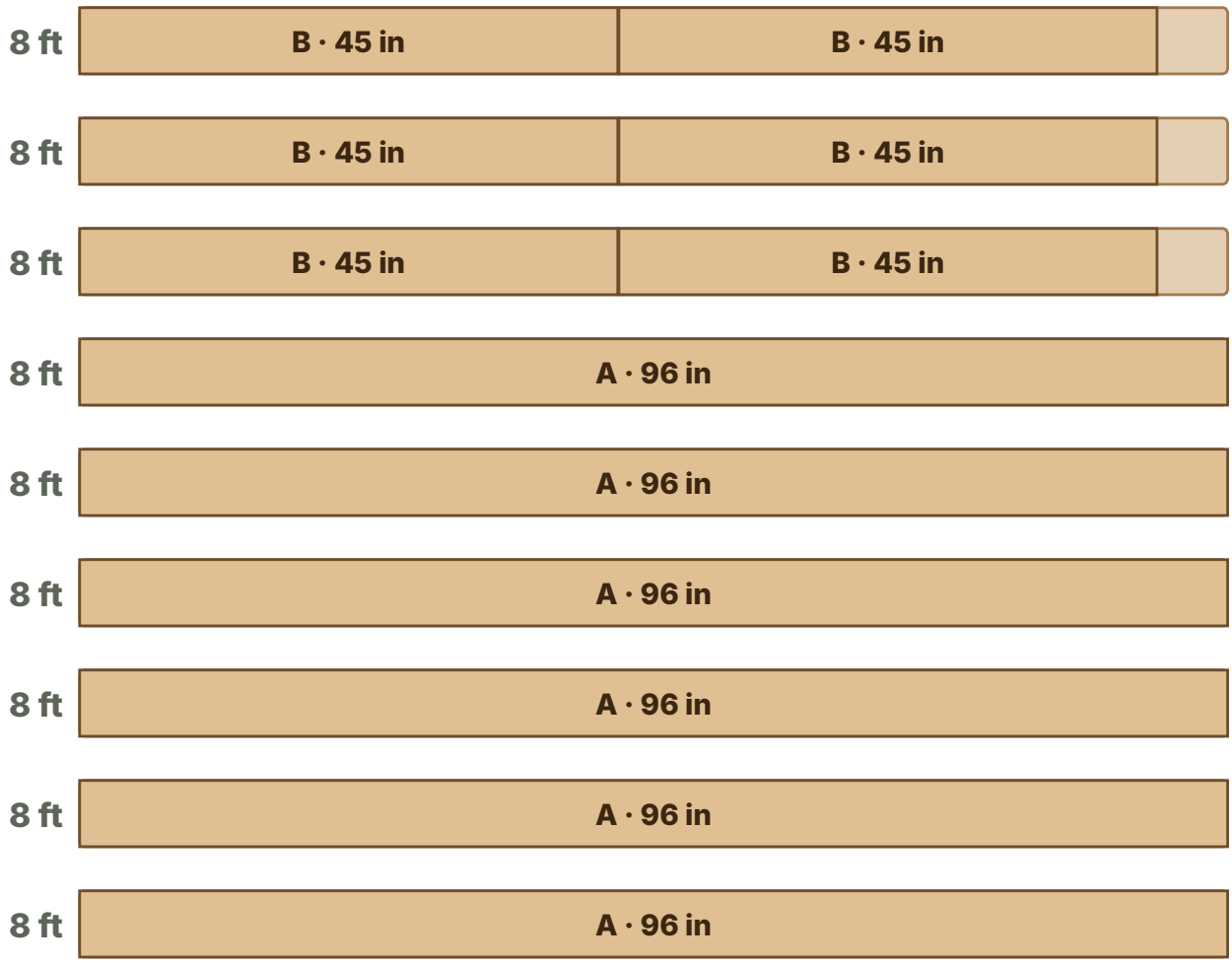
Cut list

Part	What it is	Lumber	Size	Cut
A	Long side board	2×8 lumber	96 in	6
B	End board (fits between the long sides)	2×8 lumber	45 in	6
C	Corner post	4×4 post	21 3/4 in	4
D	Middle post (inside the long sides, so they do not bow)	4×4 post	21 3/4 in	2

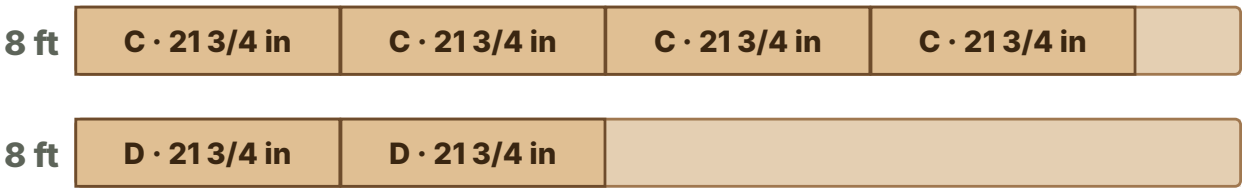
Where to cut each board

Each bar is one board you buy, drawn to scale. Measure from the left end, cut, then measure the next piece from the fresh cut; the saw blade takes about 3/32 in each time. Hatched ends are offcuts.

2×8 lumber



4×4 post



Step by step

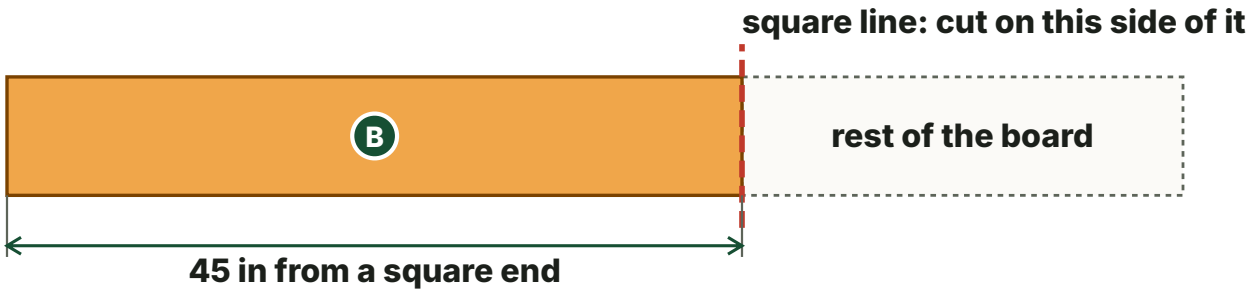
1. Cut the pieces

Square one end of each board first: draw a line across it with a square and trim it. Then measure from that end, mark the length, and draw a square line across the board.

Cut on the waste side of the line, so the piece keeps its full length. Follow the cutting diagrams, and write each piece's letter on it in pencil.

Check that the long side boards (A) all match and the end boards (B) all match: a box only goes together square when they do.

Measure, mark and cut (end board shown)

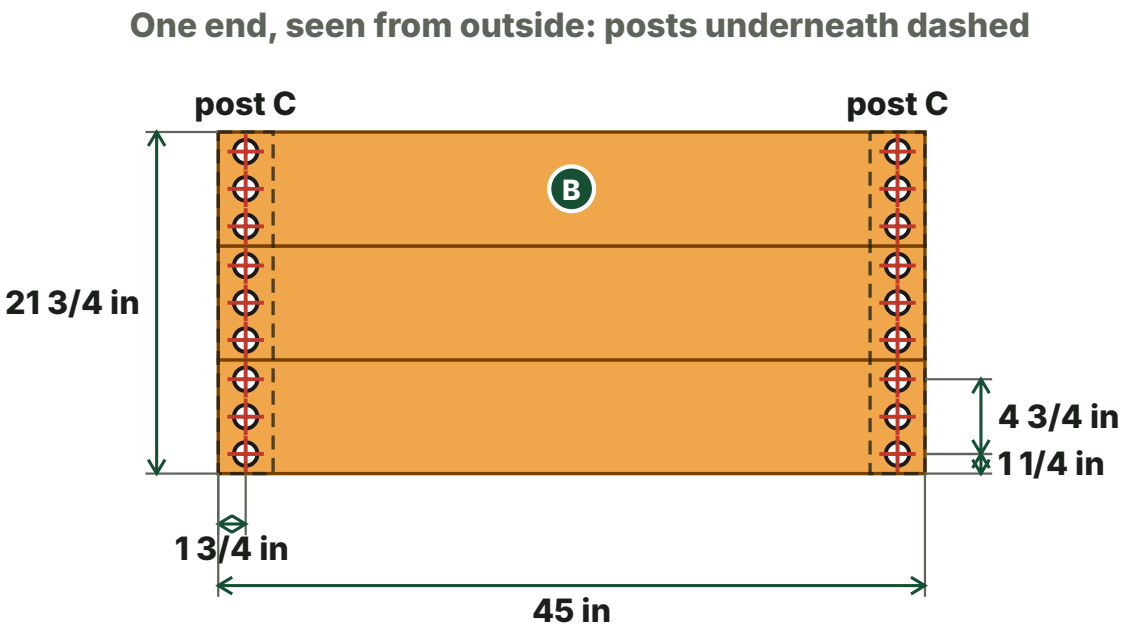


2. Build the two ends

Lay two corner posts (C) flat on the ground and set the end boards (B) across them, so each board end is flush with the outside face of a post and the top board is flush with the tops of the posts.

Mark the screw spots as the drawing shows: a line 1 3/4 in from each board end (the middle of the post below), with three screws on it per board. Drill a pilot hole at each mark, then drive the screws.

Build the second end the same way.

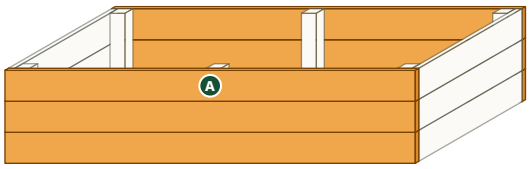


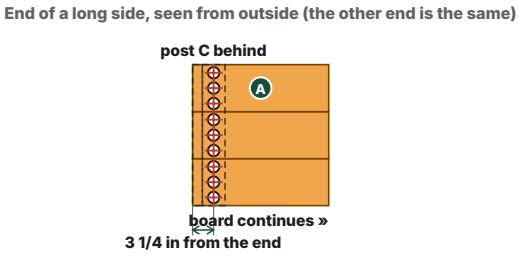
Screw: drill a pilot hole first, then drive a 3 in screw

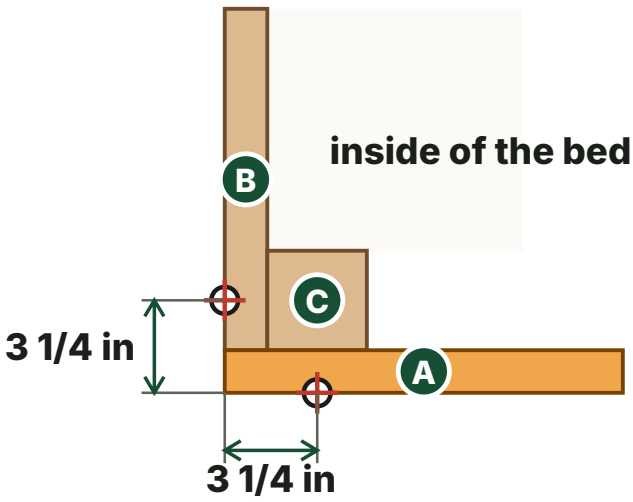
3. Add the long sides

Stand the two ends up, 7 ft 9 in apart on the inside. Hold a long side board (A) against them so it covers the ends of the end boards, flush at the top and at both corners. A clamp at each end holds it while you drill.

The screws go into the corner post behind, so mark them 3 1/4 in from the board end, at the same heights as on the ends. Drill and drive 3 screws at each end, then add the remaining long boards the same way on both sides.





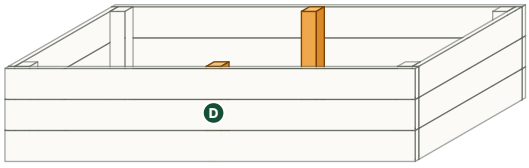


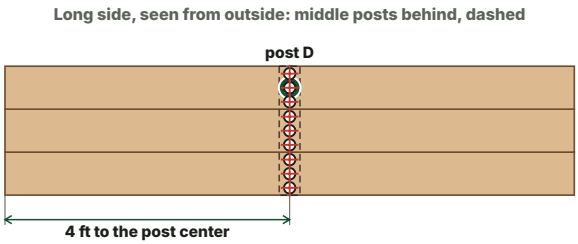
Screw: drill a pilot hole first, then drive a 3 in screw

4. Add the middle posts

Long sides bow outward once the bed is full of wet soil. Measure along each long side from the same end and mark the center of each middle post: 4 ft.

Stand a middle post (D) inside the bed, centered on the mark and flush with the top board. Drill and drive 3 screws through each long board into it, on the mark.





Screw: drill a pilot hole first, then drive a 3 in screw

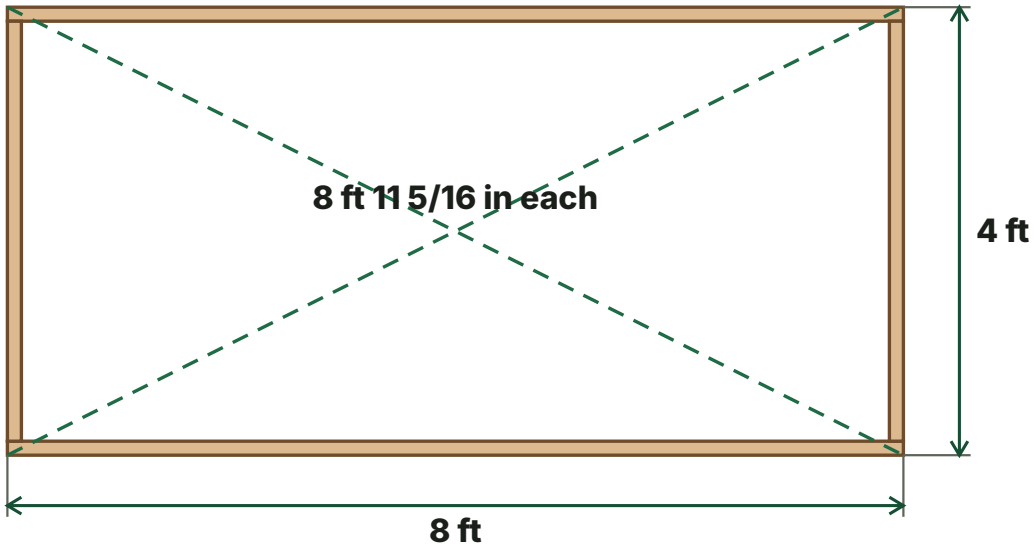
5. Square it, level it and fill it

Measure both diagonals, corner to corner across the top. When the bed is square they match, at about 8 ft 11 5/16 in each; push the long corners toward each other until they do.

Level the ground under the boards so the bed sits flat.

Fill with soil. Each bed holds about 53 cu ft.

Seen from above: when both diagonals match, the bed is square



Good to know

- Buy cedar or redwood, or treated lumber labeled for ground contact (UC4A); the boards sit in damp soil.
- At the store, sight down each board and pick the straightest ones; a bowed board makes a crooked bed.
- Rest the bed on level ground: boards that bridge a dip twist as the soil settles.