

This is a Draft Version of these instructions. Refinements will be added in the near future.



SQUARE POST BEDS – ASSEMBLY AND INSTALLATION GUIDE

WHAT'S IN THE BOX:

4' x 4' x 4 Tier Bed

- (16) 3' 8" cedar post, 4" x 4" square
- (48) 6" galvanized spikes
- Assembly Instructions, Parts Diagram, Installation Guide, Soil Volume Chart, Contact Information.

4' x 8' x 4 Tier Bed

- (8) 7' 8" cedar post, 4" x 4" square
- (8) 3' 8" cedar post, 4" x 4" square
- (56) 6" galvanized spikes
- Assembly Instructions, Parts Diagram, Installation Guide, Soil Volume Chart, Contact Information.

4' x 4' x 5 Tier Bed

- (20) 3' 8" cedar post, 4" x 4" square
- (60) 6" galvanized spikes
- Assembly Instructions, Parts Diagram, Installation Guide, Soil Volume Chart, Contact Information.

4' x 8' x 5 Tier Bed

- (10) 7' 8" cedar post, 4" x 4" square
- (10) 3' 8" cedar post, 4" x 4" square
- (64) 5" galvanized spikes
- Assembly Instructions, Parts Diagram, Installation Guide, Soil Volume Chart, Contact Information.

TOOLS YOU WILL NEED:

- Hammer
- Carpenters triangle
- Staple gun with about fifty 3/8" or 1/2" staples.
- Scissors or utility knife
- Wood Clamps (optional)
- Shims or scrap wood (optional)
- 4' Level or smaller level with straight, 4' piece of wood (not required for assembly - for use when installing the bed in your yard)
- Shovel, garden rake (not a leaf rake) (not required for assembly - for use when installing the bed in your yard)

EXTRAS YOU WILL NEED:

- Landscape cloth
- Soil (see chart below)
- Yard waste bags (for installation only)

SOIL VOLUMES for Square Post Beds: (27 cubic feet = one cubic yard)

4' x 4' x 4 Tier bed: approximately 14 cubic feet or half a cubic yard

4' x 8' x 4 Tier bed: approximately 30 cubic feet or 1.1 cubic yards

4' x 4' x 5 Tier bed: approximately 19 cubic feet or .7 cubic yards

4' x 8' x 5 Tier bed: approximately 39 cubic feet or 1.5 cubic yards

- These volumes will fill your bed to or near the top. If you plan on adding compost, manure, worm castings or some other soil amendment, you may wish to use a little less soil to allow space for the amendments.
- Please note that some soil settling is likely, and is normal.
- We recommend a triple mix blend with good structure. Soil blends with large amounts of tree bark and other organic matter that is not broken down is not recommended as it can lack structure.



ASSEMBLY INSTRUCTIONS FOR SQUARE POST RAISED BEDS

PLEASE NOTE: Cedar is a soft wood. Work carefully to decrease the risk of damage to the wood.

REMEMBER: SAFETY FIRST. Some basic safety measures to follow include:

- Always wear safety glasses when working with tools.
- When lifting, bend at the knees, not at the hips.
- Work with a partner to make lifting easier and safer

CALL BEFORE YOU DIG. If your garden bed installation requires digging more than just a few inches – that is, deeper than a top layer for basic sod removal – you are advised to do a utility survey/locate. This is especially true for front yard installations. You can get a free utility locate in Ontario by calling Ontario One Call, 1 (800) 400-2255. Quebec residents can call Info Excavation at 1 (800) 663-9228.

A word about Tiers:

The word Tier as used in these instructions refers to a single course of four square posts in their rectangular (4' x 8' beds) or square (4' x 4' beds) shape. Tiers are assembled piece by piece, with successive tiers being built post by post on top of the tier below it. **DO NOT ASSEMBLE TIERS SEPARATLY FROM ONE ANOTHER.** Successive tiers must be attached piece by piece to the tier below.

Square Post Bed Pieces:

All pieces of the same length are interchangeable. There is no difference between a Lower Tier piece and an upper, or top tier piece. It is recommended that you choose the pieces that are the most beautiful for what will be the most visible wall(s) of your bed, and assemble them accordingly. Also, for the top tier, choose pieces that are the smoothest and most aesthetically pleasing. This is the most visible tier, and the one that will be sat upon.

Square Post bed pieces all come with pre-drilled Pilot Holes that define where spikes will be placed. When putting the wood into place for assembly, ensure that the pilot holes are visible on the top of the piece of wood.

A word about wood lengths:

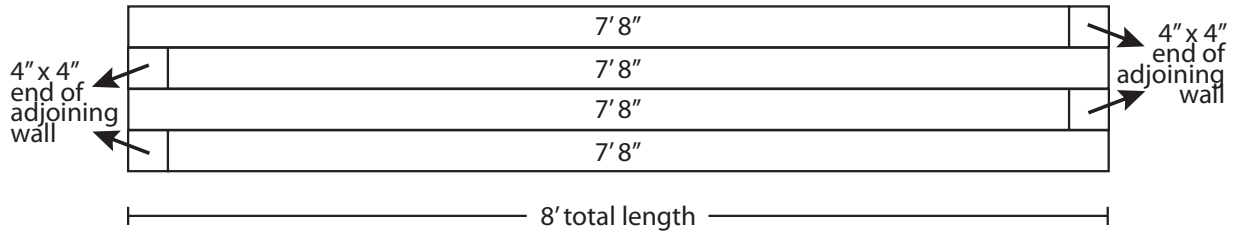
A bed with outside dimensions of 4' x 8' will be made up of wood pieces measuring 7' 8" for the length, and 3' 8" for the width. When assembled, the 8' length will be made up of the 7' 8" piece, plus four inches of the adjoining wall that sits at 90 degrees – the width-wall. The same applies to the 4' width, made up of a 3' 8" piece of wood plus four inches from the end of the adjoining piece.

Similar math applies to a bed measuring 4' x 4'. Each wall will be made up of a piece of wood measuring 3' 8", plus the four inches from the adjoining wall to equal a total length of four feet. Please refer to the diagrams on the next page.

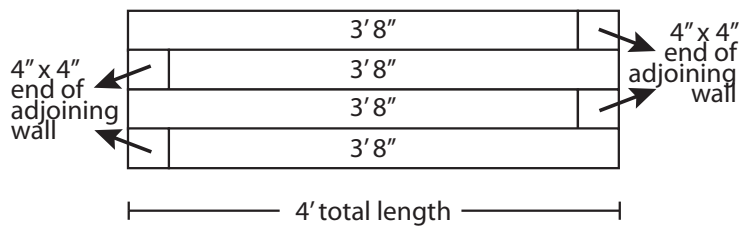
Square Post Bed Assembly Diagram

Bed Size: 4' x 8'

Front and Back 8' Walls (length)

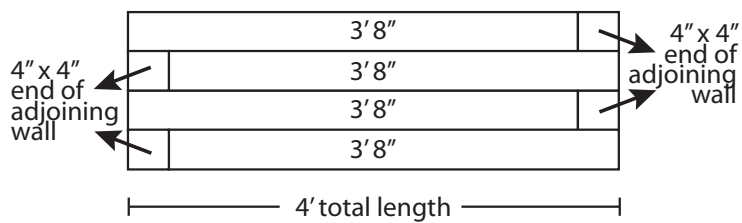


Left and Right 4' Walls (width)

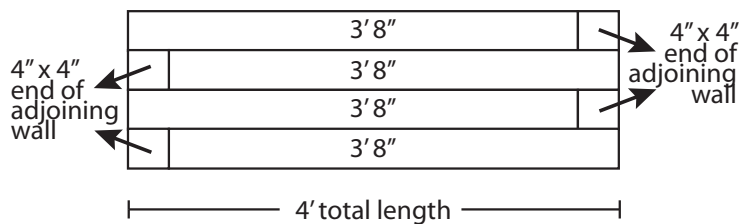


Bed Size: 4' x 4'

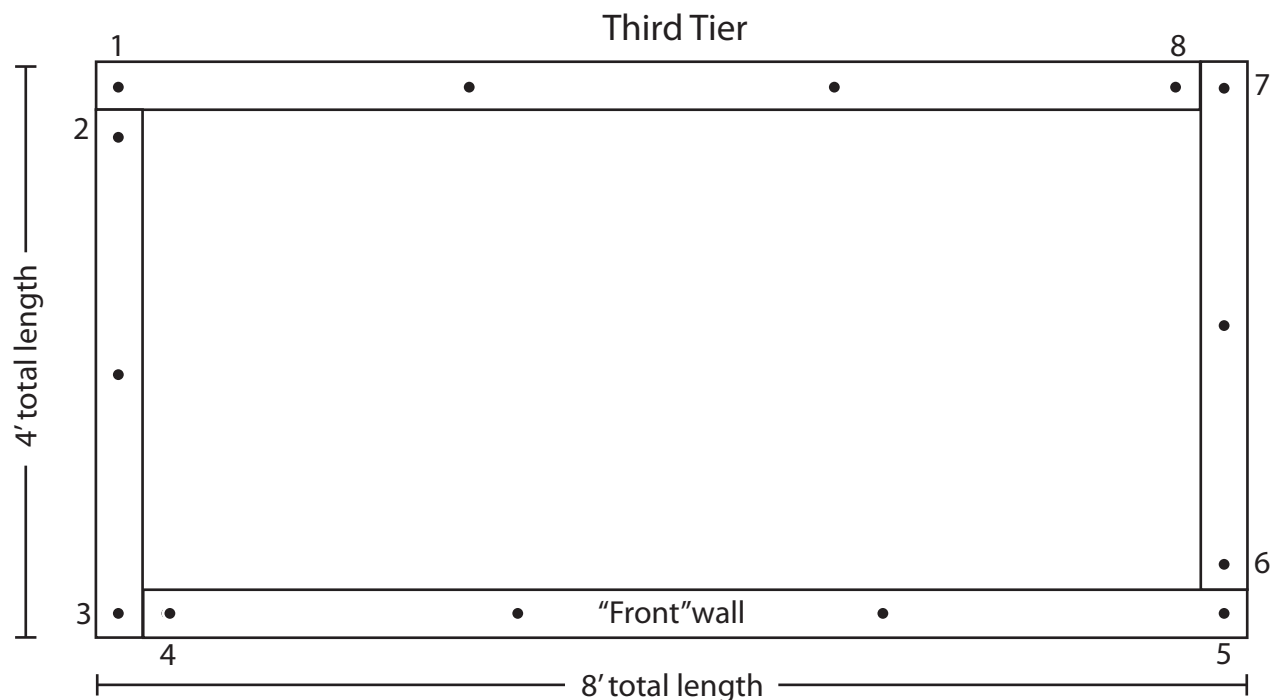
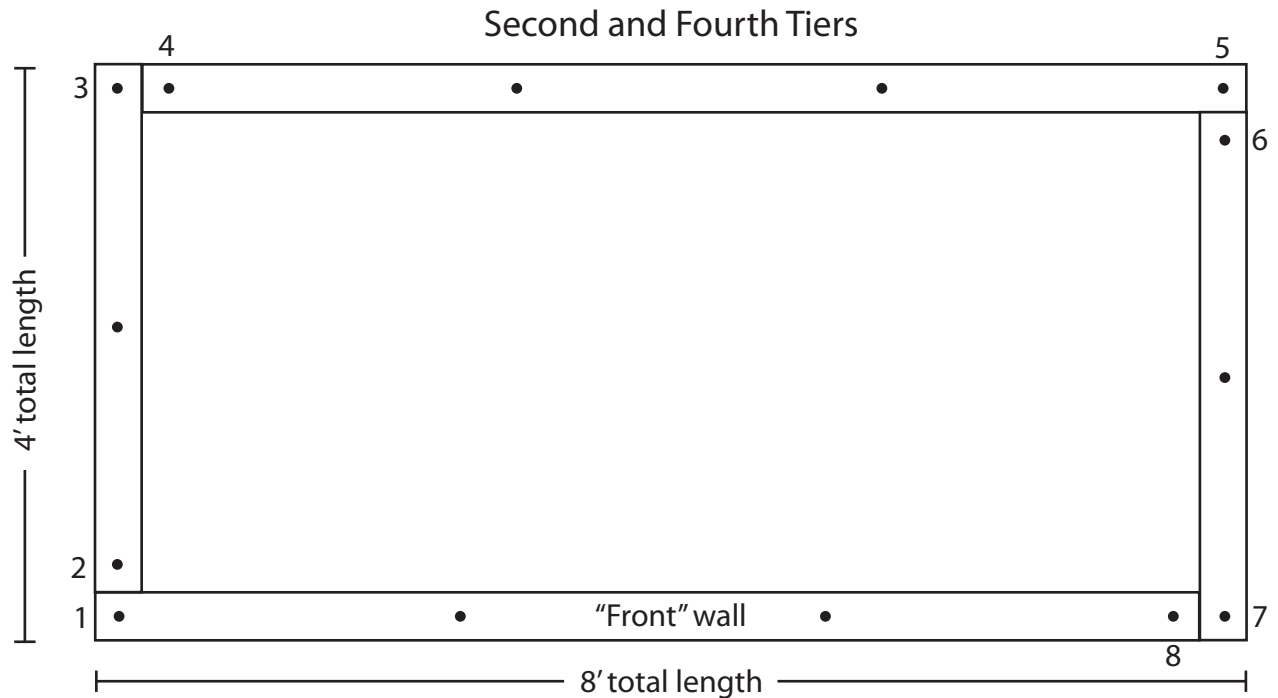
Front and Back 4' Walls (length)



Left and Right 4' Walls (width)



Square Post Bed Assembly Diagram - Bird's Eye View



- = Pre-drilled pilot hole for 6" spikes
- Associated numbers represent order of insertion for spikes
- NOTE: First tier: NO SPIKES
- Second and fourth tiers place spikes in order as shown in diagram "Second and Fourth Tiers" above
- Third tier place spikes in order as shown in diagram "First (bottom) and Third Tiers" above

ASSEMBLY INSTRUCTIONS:

For simplicity sake, wood lengths are referred to as either 8' or 4', even though the true length of the pieces is 7' 8" and 3' 8" respectively.

These instructions are for a 4' x 8' bed. If you are assembling a 4' x 4' bed, replace the 8' piece with a 4' piece wherever mentioned.

The Basic Assembly Concept: As you will see from the diagrams on page two and three of these instructions, the wood for odd-numbered tiers (the first, or bottom, and the third) does NOT line up exactly with the even numbered tiers (second and fourth). Instead, the wood is staggered from one tier to the next. This is done in order to increase stability of the bed. On the first/bottom tier, you should see the "end wood" of the adjoining wall on the left side of the bed; on the second and fourth tiers, you should see the "end wood" of the adjoining wall on the right side of the bed. As long as you are following this pattern, you can theoretically build your bed to as many tiers tall as you would like.

1. Check for all parts to make sure nothing is missing. See Parts List. If anything is missing, please contact us immediately.

First (bottom) and Second Tiers:

2. On a solid, flat surface, roughly assemble the bottom tier by mimicking the diagram on page 3, "First Tier" of these instructions. Do not connect these pieces.
3. Carefully place the second tier on top of the first tier by mimicking the diagram on page 3, "Second Tier" of these instructions.
4. Locate the front/left corner. The 8' piece should be sitting over top the 4' piece of the first tier. Use body weight to keep the pieces in place. Insert a spike into the Pilot Hole #1 as shown on the diagram "Second and Fourth Tiers" above and hammer it through. Check to make sure that the two tiers are exactly aligned before driving the spike into the lower tier. Use body weight to hold the wood in place and to prevent it from shifting under the force of the hammer as it strikes the wood.
5. Insert and hammer through a spike into Pilot Hole #2 as shown on the diagram "Second and Fourth Tiers" above. Again, before driving the spike into the lower tier, make sure the two tiers are aligned with one another. Again, use body weight to hold the pieces in place as you hammer.
6. Place a carpenter's triangle in the corner you are working on. Ensure that both the length and the width pieces are at 90 degrees to one another. The two walls should be touching the full length of the carpenter's triangle. Alternatively, you can inspect the corner visually to ensure the corner is square. There should be little to no gaps where one piece of wood meets the adjoining piece.
7. Continue inserting spikes #3 to #8 as you did the first two spikes, ensuring that the two tiers are aligned before driving the spike through to the lower tier.
8. Once spikes 1 through 8 have been hammered in, continue inserting the rest of the spikes into the pre-drilled Pilot Holes on the tier. The order does not matter.
9. The bottom two tiers are now complete. Before continuing with the assembly of the third tier, it is now time to prepare and level the installation site. In order to level the bed correctly, it will need to be moved on and off the installation site, possibly a number of times. At only two tiers tall, your

bed is relatively light and easily moved by two people. If you finish assembling the entire bed, moving it to and from the installation site will be extremely difficult and unsafe.

10. Prepare the installation site (see BASIC INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS enclosed).
11. Now that the bottom two tiers of your bed is in place and level on the installation site, you can leave it there and continue adding the third tier.

Third Tier

12. Roughly assemble the third tier on top of the second tier. It should have the same pattern as the first (bottom) tier, with the end wood of the adjoining wall visible at the left-hand corner. Apply spikes in the order as laid out in the diagram on page 3 above, in the “First (bottom) and Third Tiers” drawing. Again: use body weight to hold wood in place as it is being hammered in, and check for proper alignment before driving the spike into the tier below.
13. Once the eight corner-spikes are inserted, hammer in the rest of the spikes for this tier. Order does not matter.
14. Check level again before applying the fourth tier. If, under the pressure of hammering the spikes, the bed has become un-level, you will need to move the bed and adjust the level of the ground. As the bed is very heavy how, and as adjustments will likely be very minor, you and your work partner can tilt the bed on to its side instead of moving it entirely out of the way. Once resting on its side, have your partner hold the bed in place while you adjust level in the soil. Then, both workers can lower the bed back into place.

Fourth Tier and Beyond

15. To apply the fourth tier, repeat steps 3, 4, and 5 above. Check level again upon completing this tier.
16. For those who have purchased beds with more than four tiers, continue applying tiers in the same manner as these first four have been assembled.
17. Now it's time to line the bed with landscape cloth (not included), which allows excess water to drain out while keeping in the soil. Start in the middle of any wall. Using your staple gun, attaching the cloth just above the seam between the top tier and the next tier below it. Use one staple approximately every six to ten inches. Try to get the cloth tight in to every corner, using a staple on each surface that creates a corner. When you've gone all the way around, overlap the cloth by a few inches, and cut off any excess. Cut off any excess cloth from the bottom of the bed, leaving a 3” skirt that will help seal the bottom of the bed where it sits on the ground. There is no need to line the bottom with landscape cloth – in fact, it is best not to.
18. Now that your bed is fully assembled and in place, return to steps 12 and 13 of the Installation Instructions, where you will fill your bed with your growing medium.
19. Stand back and enjoy your handiwork!

BUFCO DIY Raised Bed Kits are warranted against manufacturer defect of faulty wood for two years, assuming normal wear and tear. Please note that the wood may crack and/or shrink, creating gaps in the corners. This is normal and is not covered by our warranty.

QUESTIONS? CALL 1 (416) 450-3899



BUFCO RAISED BED INSTALLATION GUIDE

These directions are for basic raised bed installation in a yard, and assumes minimal grading/leveling is required.

PLEASE NOTE: – cedar is a soft wood. Work on a soft surface (grass, cardboard, moving blanket) to reduce risk of damage to the wood.

REMEMBER: CALL BEFORE YOUR DIG. SAFETY FIRST. Some basic safety measure to follow:

- If your garden bed installation requires digging more than just a few inches – that is, deeper than a top layer for basic sod removal – you are advised to do a utility survey/locate. This is especially true for front yard installations, or yards with built-in lighting. You can get a free utility locate in Ontario by calling Ontario One Call, 1 (800) 400-2255. Quebec residents call Info Excavation, 1 (800) 663-9228.
- Always wear safety glasses when working with tools.
- When lifting, bend at the knees, not at the hips.

INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

1. Define the area where you want your raised bed to be installed. Remember to factor in the amount of sun, access to water, proximity to the kitchen/house, and drainage (avoid installing the bed in low lying areas of the yard where rainwater can collect or drainage may be poor).
NOTE: If you have a sub-irrigation system in your yard, be very careful about bed placement and sod removal (starting with step 4 below) so as to avoid damaging underground water lines or in-ground sprinkler heads.
2. Remove/relocate any plants, rocks and other obstructions from the installation area.
3. After you have assembled your bed (first and second tiers for Square Post beds; first tier only for Signature Series Beds), place it where you want to install it.
4. Using an edger or a flat edged shovel, score (cut) the sod around the outside of the bed. You do not need to sink the shovel in too deep – a couple of inches should be enough.
5. After the sod is scored, move the bed off to the side so you can remove the sod.
6. You can slice up the patch of sod to be removed into smaller pieces using your edger or flat shovel. This can make removing the sod easier.

7. Using a flat shovel or a sod-lifter (a very useful tool!) remove as *thin a layer of sod/soil as possible*. Shake off any excess soil back into the installation area. Dispose of the removed sod in your compost bin or bag it for removal by your municipality. Do not overfill the yard waste bags.
8. After the sod is removed, located the lowest part of the installation area. Using your flat shovel, trim off the topsoil all the way around the perimeter of the installation area so that all edges are at the same level as this lowest point. You only need to level the perimeter of the installation area, where the walls of the bed will sit. Use a 4' level to check level as you work (if you don't have a 4' level, use a smaller level on a straight, 4' piece of 2" x 4" wood). Work in four-foot sections checking level frequently. Remove the topsoil in thin layers instead of thick chunks. In some cases, you may find that a portion of your bed will end up being buried below the top of the lawn ("below grade") due to the grade, or slope of your yard. This is perfectly normal and will not affect the performance of your raised bed.
9. Tamp down the outer edges of the installation area by stomping on it with your feet, or tamping it with a brick or soil tamper. This will help to minimize settling of the bed in the future. Check level again. Make any final adjustments, and tamp again.
10. Once the perimeter of the installation area is level, place the bed back on the installation area and double check level by placing the level on the top of each of the four walls.
11. Make minor adjustments by lifting/tilting one side of the bed only, or moving the bed off to the side again. Back fill (add soil and tamp down) to areas that are too low, and shave off more topsoil from areas that are still too high. You will quickly get the hang of this process. Gaps between the bottom of the bed and the topsoil are fine if the gap is below grade.

SQUARE POST BEDS: RETURN TO YOUR ASSEMBLY INSTRUCTIONS STEP 12

SIGNATURE SERIES BEDS: RETURN TO YOUR ASSEMBLY INSTRUCTIONS, STEP 6

12. Once the bed is level and in place, use a shovel or pitchfork to loosen the topsoil throughout the interior the bed, trying not to walk on the loosened soil.
13. You are now ready to fill your bed with your growing medium. We recommend a triple mix blend with good structure. Soil blends with large amounts of tree bark and other organic matter that is not broken down is not recommended as it can lack structure.

Although not necessary, it is a good idea to wait a couple of days before planting in order to let the new soil settle.

Please note, some settling of the bed itself is common and acceptable. To minimize this, make sure the topsoil immediately under the walls of the bed is packed down.