



A Collaborative Program of
Arbor Day Foundation and
Dimensions Educational Research Foundation

Planter Boxes

#6975, 6976, 6977, 6978 6979, 6980

Assembly Instructions

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

1-888-908-8733 | service@natureexplore.org | natureexplore.org



Quality Commitment

Nature Explore is dedicated to children's education and safety. All of our resources are field-tested by experienced teachers and researchers prior to being available in the Sourcebook. Items that are hand-crafted, such as instruments, tables or balance beams, are done so by trusted professionals who share in our mission to connect children with nature. Our natural resources are crafted out of wood and other materials carefully selected for functionality, safety and durability.

If you ever have questions or would like more information about items you would like to order or have received, please contact us via phone or email. We are happy to discuss things in detail with you or send you additional information.

If inquiring about an existing order please have your 'bill to' zip code and order number handy (Ex: SO90001234). Also, our warranty, return and exchange policies are located online for your quick reference.

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 Planter Box

Recommended Ages: All Ages



When using volunteer labor, make sure that the person assembling the planter box 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.

*Planter Boxes are NOT water-tight or weather-proof. You may want to treat with a commercial water-seal to extend the life of the unit. **Planter boxes will check, crack and possibly warp over time.** Nature Explore Planter Boxes 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 planter box.

- Sand to remove any splinters
- Ensure that the planter box is level and sturdy on ground

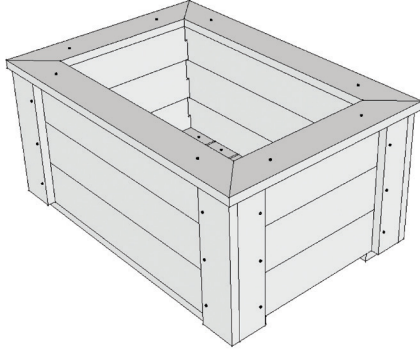
Bi-annual Maintenance - Performed every year or more based on local climate.

- 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



#6975 - 2' L x 2' W x 18 1/2" H

Parts List:	Capacity:
12 - 2' Boards	.23 Cubic Yards
4 - 18.5" Pins	
4- Mitered Top Rail Boards	
4- Corner Moldings	
Screws	

#6976 - 2' L x 2' W x 24" H

Parts List:	Capacity:
16 - 2' Boards	.30 Cubic Yards
4 - 24" Pins	
4- Mitered Top Rail Boards	
4- Corner Moldings	
Screws	

6977# - 4' L x 2' W x 18 1/2" H

Parts List:	Capacity:
6 - 4' Side Boards	.46 Cubic Yards
6 - 2' Side Boards	
4 - 18.5" Pins	
4- Mitered Top Rail Boards	
4- Corner Moldings	
Screws	

#6978 - 4' L x 2' W x 24" H

Parts List:	Capacity:
8 - 4' Boards	.59 Cubic Yards
8 - 2' Boards	
4 - 24" Pins	
4- Mitered Top Rail Boards	
4- Corner Moldings	
Screws	

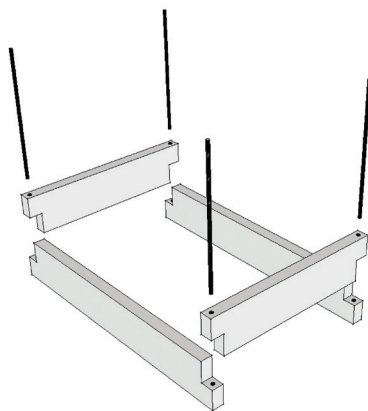
#6979 - 6' L x 2' W x 18 1/2" H

Parts List:	Capacity:
6 - 6' Boards	.69 Cubic Yards
6 - 2' Boards	
4 - 18.5" Pins	
4- Mitered Top Rail Boards	
4- Corner Moldings	
Screws	

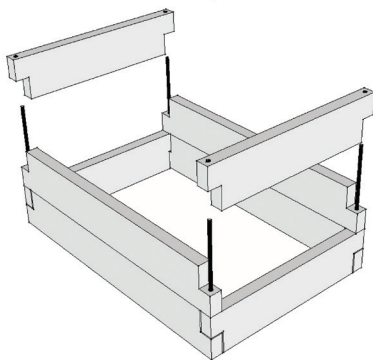
#6980 - 6' L x 2' W x 24" H

Parts List:	Capacity:
8 - 6' Boards	.89 Cubic Yards
8 - 2' Boards	
4 - 24" Pins	
4- Mitered Top Rail Boards	
4- Corner Moldings	
Screws	

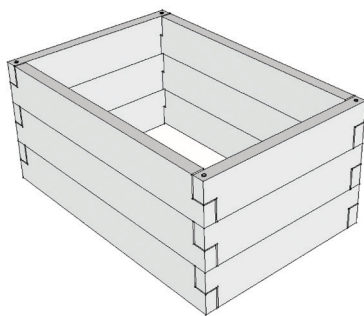
- 1** Thoroughly read and review all instructions before you begin. Select a location to place your assembled Planter Box.



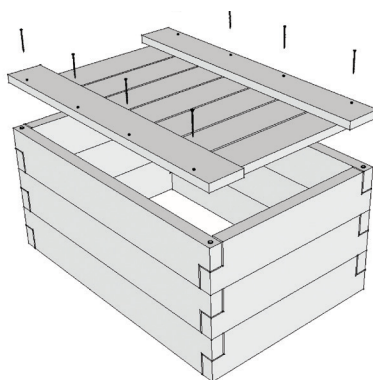
- 2** Level the ground and position the boards so the notched ends overlap and the 3/8" holes line up. Start at one end and work your way around the bed, inserting the metal pins into the holes to lock the boards together.



- 3** Stack remaining boards to build the height of the planter.

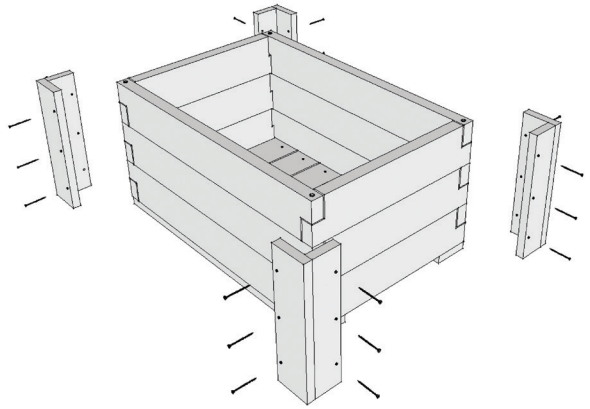


- 4** Attach the single piece bottom with the included screws. Assemble the planter upside-down then turn over to add the corner molding and mitered top rail boards.



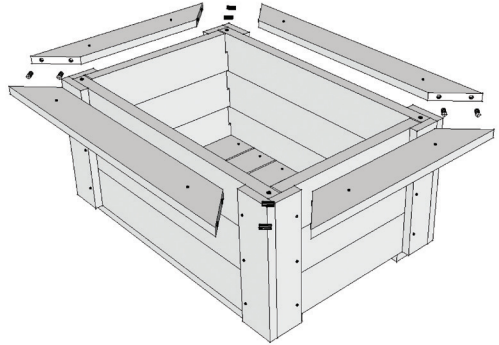
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Attach corner moldings with the included screws. Position the pieces to cover the lap joints and set flush with the top of the bed.



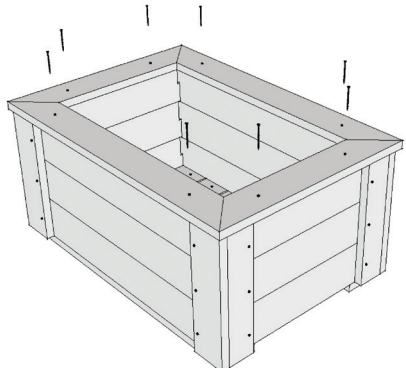
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Assemble the top rail by inserting dowels into the ends of the mitered boards, fitting the pieces together to form a frame on top of the planter.

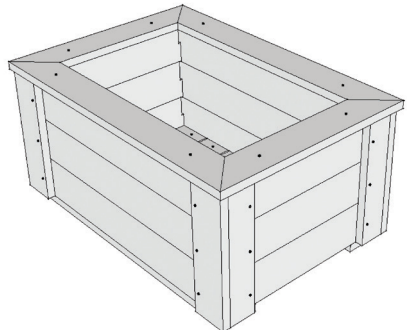


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Center the top rail so that it overhangs the sides of the base about 1 1/2". Lightly tap the edge of each corner with a rubber mallet to ensure the corners are tight before screwing the rail to the top of the planter.



Your Planter Box is now complete and ready for use.



How to Fill a Planter Box

Adequate drainage is essential to a successful planter box. While water will naturally drain through gaps in the boards, 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 18.5" H Planter Bed:

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

For 24" H Planter Bed:

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

	#6975 <i>2' L x 2' W x 18 1/2" H</i>	#6976 <i>2' L x 2' W x 24" H</i>	#6977 <i>4' L x 2' W x 18 1/2" H</i>	#6978 <i>4' L x 2' W x 24" H</i>	#6979 <i>6' L x 2' W x 18 1/2" H</i>	#6980 <i>6' L x 2' W x 24" H</i>
	Depth Cubic Yards	Depth Cubic Yards	Depth Cubic Yards	Depth Cubic Yards	Depth Cubic Yards	Depth Cubic Yards
Seeding Mix	6" .07	6" .07	6" .15	6" .15	6" .22	6" .22
Black Top Soil	7.5" .09	13" .16	7.5" .19	13" .32	7.5" .28	13" .48
Gravel	3" .04	3" .04	3" .07	3" .07	3" .11	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.

Important Facts About Natural Wood Products

Many of our items, such as Giant Tree Cookies, balance beams, tables, seating, and instruments, are hand-crafted out of natural materials for their educational and environmental value, natural aesthetic qualities, and personal enjoyment. Routine visual inspection and occasional sanding or bolt tightening is recommended to ensure items are in the best and safest condition and to extend the overall useful life of the item(s). If indicated, items can arrive with an initial application of a weather sealant. Annual application is recommended.

As natural wood resources age and acclimate to changing climates, you will notice graining, knots and checking (a natural cracking process that occurs as wood releases moisture across annual growth rings) as shown below. Should this natural process result in splintering or a rough surface, simply sand the area and return it to use. Also, these resources will naturally develop a beautiful silvery-gray patina over time. Observing wood's natural color change and aging is a valuable part of children's connection with nature. Each item's dimension and appearance will vary due to the uniqueness of the wood from which it was created.



There are a variety of treatment options you can use to extend the life of your Nature Explore product such as linseed oil or soy-based sealants. Please consult a local expert (i.e. wood-working expert, general contractor, lumber yard, parks & recreation department, etc.) to see what options are appropriate and safe in your particular area.

In rare cases, as items continue to dry and acclimate to your local climate/environment, there is a chance that mold discoloration will appear. Routine sanding and ensuring the item is installed on a surface with adequate drainage (i.e. mulch, gravel, etc.) will reduce the potential for mold. Installing on grass surfaces allows moisture to be trapped underneath the product and is not recommended. Should mold occur on any of your Nature Explore items, please contact us for a quick and easy removal recommendations.

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.