

List of Materials

- pallet
- weed cloth
- staple gun and rust-resistant staples
- light-weight potting soil (**Happy Frog**)
- slow-release fertilizer (**Osmocote** or **Dynamite**)
- small plants or seeds

Step 1: Choosing your Pallet

Pallets can be a cheap and easy way to create a vertical garden, but there are some things you should keep in mind when selecting one for use.

Pallets are used to transport a variety of goods across the world, and are treated either with heat or methyl bromide to keep fungi and diseases from spreading with the wood.

Pallets for shipping overseas are required to have a marking indicating which method was used to treat them.

Select a pallet which is heat treated, as it is the safer of the two. **Pallets which have been heat treated will have an HT burned or stamped on their surface.** Spillage can also occur during transport, so try to select pallets which look 'clean'. Avoid big stains, odd smells, and creepy looking wood, also check to make sure your pallet does not have termites!

Step 2: Add Weed Cloth

Weed cloth will keep the dirt inside of the pallet and help keep weeds out of it. This is probably the most labor intensive part of your project. Use rust resistant staples and a heavy duty staple gun to attach the weed cloth to the back, bottom and sides of the pallet. The more staples the better as the plants will begin to push on the weed cloth as they grow.

Step 3: Add Soil and Fertilizer

Use a light-weight soil like Happy Frog potting soil. To make it even lighter, add a small bag or more of perlite to the mixture. Add a slow release fertilizer such as **Osmocote** or **Dynamite**.

Step 4: Add Plants!

You can make a pallet garden with seeds or plants. When growing from seed, allow the pallet to rest on the ground or at a gentle angle until the young plants are established (usually 2-3 weeks).

Allow plants at least one week to root into the rest of the pallet before standing it up in your garden. Use plants which will not grow too large; small annuals, lettuces and herbs are all good choices. Also keep in mind where you plan to place the garden, and use plants which match up with the amount of sun or shade in that area.

Step 5: Watering

Our pallet gardens are on a daily drip system. As the plants in your garden grow larger and root more firmly into the pallet, you will need to ensure they get adequate water. We recommend watering your pallet garden at least twice a week. You may be able to go longer between waterings as long as your soil is staying wet.



Step 6: Maintenance

Other than watering, your pallet garden will not require much maintenance. It is difficult for weeds to get a hold in these gardens, and the plants may need occasional clipping.

Make sure your pallet garden is anchored properly so the wind does not knock it over. As seasons change and/or the plants outgrow the pallet you may need to replace them. Simply pull out the old and plug in the new, adding soil and fertilizer as you go!