



MAKE YOUR OWN KITCHEN PLANTERS

Many plants from kitchen herbs to strawberries can be great to grow indoors as well as out. Most will be happy in an area of bright but indirect sunlight; perfect if you have a room without a south-facing window or skylight. Follow our guide below to make your own planters!

EQUIPMENT

- Wooden backing for securing shelves (e.g. plywood or pallet at least 60 x 50 cm)
- Wooden plank 1m (L) x 15cm (W) x 22mm (D)
- Wooden batten 1m (L) x 25mm (W) x 30mm (D)
- Hand Saw
- Pencil
- 30cm rule, or tape measure and straight edge
- Flat work surface
- Electric drill and 3mm bit
- Screwdriver
- 24 screws (40mm long) for shelves and battens
- Appropriate fixings and plugs to mount backing (optional)
- Waterproof material (old bin bag or compost bag)
- 2 coir basket liners or similar (optional)
- 4-6 wild strawberry plants
- Peat-free, multi purpose, compost

DIRECTIONS

1. Using the 90° angle guide on your saw, draw lines across the wooden plank at 30, 60, 75 and 90 cm

2. Using the 45° angle on your saw, draw diagonal lines between your 60 to 75 cm marks and again from 75 to 90 cm.



3. You should now have two rectangles and four right-angle triangles marked out across your plank, which will form the front and side panels of your shelves.

4. Carefully saw along these lines - ask somebody to hold the wood to prevent it splitting



5. Draw points at 5 and 10cm along one of the shorter edges of each triangle. Try to position the points along the centreline of this edge. These will mark out where to drill pilot holes.

6. Carry these marks onto the front of each rectangle, approximately the same distance in from the edge as on the triangles.

7. Hold the pieces together, making sure the marks line up. Now carefully drill out each pilot hole. This will stop the wood from splitting when screwing together.

8. Using 40mm screws, fix the front of the shelf onto the sides through the pilot holes. Your shelves should now be taking shape!



PREP TIME: 15 MINS
ACTIVITY TIME: 1 HR+
CLEARING UP: 15 MINS

DIFFICULTY: 3/5
AGES: 12+





MAKE YOUR OWN KITCHEN PLANTERS



DIRECTIONS

9. Lay the wooden backing flat then centre the shelves, one under the other. Set the batten against the inside edge of one side and mark the height to cut with a pencil



10. Cut the batten along the pencil line, and repeat to make four batten supports. These will butt up against the inside of the shelves as shown (left). Mark the position of each batten on the backing with pencil.

11. Drill pilot holes at both ends of each batten, then fix with 40mm screws into the backing, ensuring the position corresponds to your pencil marks.



12. Reposition the shelves over the battens and drill two pilot holes through each side of the shelf at top and bottom. Be careful to avoid the screws already there!

13. Fix shelves into position against the battens using the remaining 40mm screws.



Now your shelves should be securely fixed to the backing. Well done!
Nearly there...

DIRECTIONS

14. If mounting on a wall or fence, secure the backboard with screws at each corner. If mounting indoors, be sure to check for wiring and pipework first!

15. Line the shelves - now planters - with heavy duty waterproof material. (An empty compost bag works a treat). If placing indoors, check it is watertight. If keeping outside, poke holes into the membrane for drainage or use weed proof membrane.



16. Either pop the plants in little plastic pots into the planters or line with coir basket liner. Fill around the plants with peat-free compost and water well.

Ongoing care will depend upon the plants chosen, but a general rule of thumb is to avoid over-watering

Excellent work! Enjoy the fruit of your labours!

Plant Care

- For herbs: Water sparingly, ensuring the compost is moist but not wet.
- For strawberries:
 - When flowers appear start feeding with potash fertiliser every couple of weeks.
 - If keeping indoors, hand pollinate the flowers with a small paintbrush to produce fruits.
 - When the plants stop fruiting you can overwinter them outdoors for next year!

