

Yes! You Can Turn a Pallet into a Vertical Garden

1. **First you need to find a pallet...**...sometimes they are found behind supermarkets, behind Staples, in a pile at Home Depot or you can “ask” friends. Don’t simply take the first pallet you see. Check them out because you are looking for one that has boards that are in good condition (ie: no nails sticking out, no rotting etc.).
2. **Collect your supplies**
 - the pallet
 - 2 large bags of potting soil
 - plants you want to use (flowers, herbs, succulents, etc)(six plants per opening is recommended)
 - small roll of landscape fabric
 - staple gun and sandpaper
3. **Preparing your pallet**
 - Check there are no loose boards (if so nail down the loose boards)
 - Is the wood chipping? Sand down any rough areas.
 - Reinforce the pallet back if it is open – some pallets don’t have the same amount of boards on both sides while others do.
 - If you wish and have the time you can paint or stain and varnish the pallet.
4. **Start Stapling!**
 - You are going to be covering the back, bottom and sides with landscape fabric leaving the spaces between the front slats, and top uncovered because that’s where you’ll be planting your plants.



Figure 1

- Lay the pallet face down and so you can roll the landscape fabric over the back

- Cut two identical pieces of landscape fabric that are long enough to go from the top edge of the back and wrap around the bottom plus a couple of inches to fold under.
- Hold the two pieces together as though they were one piece of fabric. Fold over the top edge by one inch and centre it on the top board of pallet back. Staple in place near the top (figure 1) edge of the top board. Smooth out fabric to the sides and pull taut. Staple down. Repeat on other side. Fill in staples every inch along the board.
- When securely attached to top, smooth the fabric down and repeat the stapling process along the bottom edge of the top board, except don't fold the fabric under – leave a long flap along the bottom. Smooth the fabric out to the sides and staple every inch along the front edge at the bottom.
- Sides – start at bottom and fold excess fabric inwards. Fold the cut edge under and staple it down near the front, bottom edge of pallet side. Smooth out and staple in place every two inches. Should be taut but not in danger of tearing. Repeat on the other side.
- The pallet back is now covered with fabric. Staple along the spine (figure 2) of the back and anywhere else you think fabric needs to be held down so soil doesn't go where you don't want it to go.



Figure 2

5. Time to Begin Planting!

- Put soil in and plant it close to where you are going to lean it up because it will be heavier at the end of planting
- You're going to plant it laying down flat on the ground
- First slide the plants into what will be the top
- Plant everything very tightly, may have to squeeze a little to get the last plant in place
- Once you have placed the plants in the top, empty the entire first bag of potting soil into the front of the pallet and push the soil into the pallet between the slats (figure 3).



Figure 3

- Smooth out the soil so it is level. Repeat with second bag (figure 4).

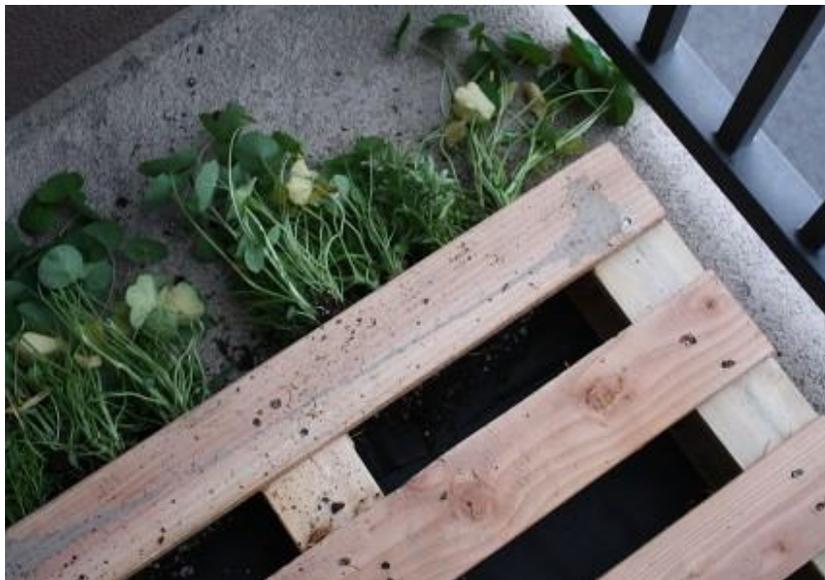


Figure 4

- Push potting soil into the bottom cavity so there is a trench directly below one of the bottom openings. Plant six plants in the trench so they are tightly fitted into the opening. Now push the potting soil up against the plants you have planted which makes a trench beneath one of the openings in the second row. Again plant plants tightly in that opening.
- Repeat for the rest of the openings. When done you will have plants covering all the openings in the pallet and soil will be pushed firmly into the areas below the slats where there are no plants (figure 5)



Figure 5

6. Caring for Your Vertical Pallet Garden!

- Leave the pallet flat on the ground for a couple of weeks while the plants root
- Water when needed based on the plants you have planted
- This allows the roots to start growing to hold all the plants in place
- Tip the plant up in place when ready and continue watering and fertilizing plants as needed. Enjoy!

