

How to make a vertical garden

Don't have much space in your yard but still want to get gardening? Why not try a vertical garden?! You can grow your vertical garden anywhere there's a some sunlight, relatively easy access to water and a bit of height to build your garden.

For example, you might want to create your vertical garden along the wall outside your room; the garden will hide the wall, help keep the wall cool (a bonus if this is a wall that gets hot in summer) AND - if you choose edible plants - fresh and free food. You can't go wrong!



It's easy to create your own vertical garden following these few simple steps.

What you will need to create your vertical garden:

- plastic drink bottles that will stack on top of one another, ideally the same type of bottles (as many as you're willing to stack, or you can build multiple) - we suggest starting with at least four
- scissors
- knife/stanley knife
- wire/string
- fence/wall that can have the vertical garden attached to it
- mulch/compost
- good quality soil
- herbs/small plants/small root based vegies

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1. Cut the bottoms off your bottles using the scissors, taking the lid off all except two (for the bottom of your vertical garden and for the funnel on the top).

2. Insert two small drainage holes on the top side of your bottles with the scissors.

3. Fill each bottle except one up with mulch and good quality soil, leaving a few centimetres at the top.

4. Stack the bottles on top of one another, binding them to the fence/wall as you go with the string/wire. Ensure the lidded bottle is at the bottom of your structure.



Step 1. Cut the bottoms off your bottles



Step 3. Fill each bottle with soil



Step 4. Stack the bottles on top of one another

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5. Using the Stanley knife, cut three sides of a square, with the bottom of the square being left attached to the bottle. The hole should be big enough to place the plants you've chosen in.

6. Removing some mulch with your fingers, create a hole in the mulch big enough plant your plants in. Place your plant in the hole.

7. With the last remaining bottle and lid, insert a few holes in the lid and place bottle on the top of your structure. This funnel can be used to water the plants with a drip style watering system.

Once you've finished one you'll want to create more. Create as many as you like and take a photo and share it with us!

Full acknowledgement to:

<https://diy.org/skills/landscaper/challenges/967/make-a-vertical-garden>



Step 5. Cut a hole into each bottle



Step 6. Plant your plants in the bottle



Send us a picture of your vertical garden!

For more information on how you can help our environment, or to make some suggestions of your own, please go to www.coolaustralia.org