

Daar krijg je dan je groendakmaterialen geleverd op een pallet. Waar moet je naar toe met zo'n pallet. Retour brengen? Gebruiken in de open haard? Maar je kunt creatiever zijn met pallets. Zo kun je er ook plantjes in laten groeien. Met een pallet maak je gemakkelijk zelf een verticale tuin.

Heb je helemaal geen balkon of terras waar je een pallet met een verticale tuin neer kunt zetten, dan kun je ook eens overwegen om zelf een raamtuin te maken. En bij gebrek aan pallets kun je ook terugvallen op kant en klare zakken voor een verticale tuin die je in de groendakwebshop kunt kopen. Een omschrijving hoe je een verticale tuin maakt van een palet vind je hier (in het engels maar de foto's spreken voor zich). Volg de plaatjes en jouw moestuin op je balkon is een feit!

Verticale tuin maken van een pallet



Wat heb je nodig om zelf van een pallet een verticale tuin te maken?

- een pallet
- plastic (landbouwplastic of van afvalzakken)
- potgrond
- een nietmachine met veel nietjes
- plantjes



Stap voor stap een verticale tuin maken

How to Turn a Pallet into a Garden

Good news and bad news. I had planned to film a short video showing you how to make a pallet garden, but the weather didn't cooperate. I was stapling the landscape fabric onto the pallet when it started drizzling and got really windy. That's the bad news. But I know I promised a tutorial today, so I took photos and have kept my word to share how to make the pallet garden. I tried to be as detailed as possible. That's the good news. 😊

So keep reading my pallet loving friends, instructions on how to make your own pallet garden are just a few lines away...

Find a Pallet

The first thing you need to do is—obviously—find a pallet. I've had good luck finding them in dumpsters behind supermarkets. No need to be squeamish. It doesn't smell. At least, it doesn't smell *that* bad. 😊 Don't just take the first pallet you find. You're looking for one with all the boards in good condition, no nails sticking out, no rotting, etc. If you intend to put edibles in your pallet, be sure to find one that was heat treated as opposed to fumigated with pesticides.

Collect Your Supplies

For this project, you'll need the pallet you found, 2 large bags of potting soil, 16 six packs of annual flowers (one six pack per opening on the face of the pallet, and two six packs per opening on the top of the completed pallet garden), a small roll of landscape fabric, a staple gun, staples, and sand paper.

Get Your Pallet into Shape

Once you've dragged your pallet home, give it a once over. Are any of the boards a little loose? Is the wood chipping in places? Nail down any loose boards, and use sand paper to smooth down any rough spots.

Let the Stapling Begin!

Decide which side of the pallet will be the bottom when the pallet garden is completed and leaning against the wall. You are going to be covering the bottom, back, and sides with landscape fabric, leaving the spaces between the slats and the top uncovered (you'll be planting flowers in the uncovered spaces).

Lay the pallet face down. Roll the landscape fabric over the back. Cut two identically sized pieces that are long enough to go from the top edge of the back of the pallet and wrap all the way around the bottom, plus a few extra inches.



Hold the two pieces of landscape fabric together as if they were one piece of fabric. Fold over the top edge by one inch and center it on the top board of the back of the pallet. **Staple the fabric into place near the top edge of the top board.** Smooth the fabric out to the left and right and

pull it taut. Staple the fabric down on the top, right edge of the top board. Repeat on the left side. Fill in between those three staples with one staple every two inches along the top edge of the top board.

When the top of the landscape fabric is securely attached to the top, back board, smooth the fabric down, and **repeat the process along the bottom edge of the bottom board**, except don't fold the fabric under, leave a long flap on the bottom.

Pulling the fabric tautly along the bottom, fold the cut edge under, and **staple the fabric down along the front edge of the bottom**. Smooth the fabric out to the left and right and staple every two inches along the front edge of the bottom.

Now for the sides. Start near the bottom and fold the excess fabric inwards as if you were wrapping a present. Fold the cut edge of the fabric under and **staple it down near the front, bottom edge of the side facade**. Smooth the fabric out and place a staple every two inches along the front edge of the side of the pallet. The fabric should be taut but not in danger of tearing. Repeat on the other side of the pallet.



You should now have a pallet with landscape fabric wrapped around the sides, back, and bottom. **Place more staples along the spine of the back side of the pallet**, and anywhere else you think the fabric needs to be held down so that soil can't creep into places you don't want it to go.

Pallets? Maak een verticale tuin!

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Now for the Fun Part—Planting!

Bring the pallet close to wherever it's final spot will be and lay it down face up. You're going to plant it while it's laying flat on the ground.



First slide the plants into what will be the top. Plant everything very tightly, you should have to practically shoe horn the last plant into place. Now that you have capped the top, pour the entire first bag of potting soil on top of the pallet. Push the soil into the pallet between the slats and smooth it out so that

the soil is level. Repeat with the second bag of potting soil.



Push potting soil into the bottom cavity, so that there is a trench directly below one of the bottom openings. Plant six plants in the trench, so that they are very tightly fitted into the opening. Repeat with the other bottom opening. Now push the potting soil up against those flowers you just planted, making a

trench beneath one of the openings in the second row. Plant your flowers tightly in that opening.

Repeat for all the remaining openings.



When you're done planting, you should have plants that are completely covering every opening (i.e. there shouldn't be any place for soil to fall out). There should also be soil firmly pushed into every part of the pallet where there aren't plants.

Caring For your Pallet

Now, I'm going to tell you what you *should* do, and I what I always end up doing (which is what you should *not* do). You should leave the pallet flat on the ground for a couple of weeks (watering when needed), so that the roots can start to grow in and hold all the plants in place. I can never wait though, so I always tip the pallet upright a few days after planting. Some soil does fall out, but it seems to be okay. But I think it would be better if you left it to settle and only tipped it upright after a few weeks. Do as I say, not as I do.



Water your pallet regularly, they dry out quickly. Pay special attention to the bottom two openings, they seem to be the driest. Fertilize with water soluble fertilizer added to your watering can (follow package instructions for amount and frequency).