

Comparison of Materials for Raised Bed Garden Structures

Material	Possible Bed Shape/Size	Approximate Cost	Ability to Move	Longevity	Comments
Wood	Rectangular or square beds are the most practical design although any straight-sided structure is possible.	Pine: \$5 (2" x 8" X 8') Cedar: \$7 (2" X 4" X 8') \$10 (1" X 8" X 8')	Yes, as long as wood has not begun to rot.	Pine will last 3 to 5 years. Cedar boards will last 10 to 15 years.	Rot-resistant boards like cedar are the best option. Avoid all treated wood since chemicals may leach into the soil.
Composite lumber	Rectangular or square beds most practical.	\$20 per board (1" X 6" X 8')	Yes	50 Years	Made from a combination of plastic and wood fibers.
Cinder Blocks	Rectangular or square beds are most practical.	\$1.50 per block (8" X 8" X 16")	Yes. Cinder blocks are heavy enough that they do not necessarily need to be fixed with mortar.	Life time (100 + years)	To add to the attractiveness of cinder block beds, the sides can be painted and the top layer can be turned so that soil can be placed in the holes for added planting space.
Wall Block	Any shape or size	\$2 per block (12" X 7" X 4")	Yes. Most wall blocks are heavy enough that they do not necessarily need to be fixed with mortar.	Life time (100 + years)	More attractive than cinder blocks and available in different colors.
Stone	Any shape or size	Pallets of stone can vary greatly from \$150 to \$500	Maybe, if stones are heavy enough that they do not need to be fixed in place with mortar.	Life time (100 + years)	Attractive, but expensive. Smaller stones should be mortared for safety.
Bricks	Any shape or size	\$0.32 (7 ¾" X 2 ¼" X 3 ¾")	No, for safety bricks would need to be mortared.	Life time (100 + years)	Can make for very attractive beds, but installation costs are very pricey unless you can find a bricklayer willing to donate their time for construction.