

Foldaway potting bench

Jacob Leaf upcycles a pallet into a thrifty space-saving potting table.

You will need

- 1 pallet
- Resene Timber and Deck Wash
- 4 x 75mm strap hinges
- 1 x small packet of 8g x 45mm general purpose timber screws

Tools

- Hammer
- Crowbar
- Tape measure
- Pencil
- Drop saw or hand saw
- Sand paper
- Speed square
- Drill and 4mm drill bit
- Screwdriver
- Paintbrushes

Paint colours

- Resene Lumbersider Blackjack

COST: \$16 excluding Resene products.



Step 1

Clean the pallet wood with the Resene Timber and Deck Wash. Lay your pallet down on a flat surface. With a crowbar and hammer, pry off the bottom deck boards.

Step 2

Cut the pallet down to fit between your middle and upper fence rails. I cut mine down to 680mm which left the bench with six deck boards as a work surface. After cutting, give the timber a quick sand to remove any rough edges.

Step 3

With the leftover pallet wood, cut two leg supports (to prop up the potting bench) and one longer piece to use as a lateral brace for the legs. You can use Pythagoreans' theorem ($a^2+b^2=c^2$) to work out the correct length of the legs, but if this sends you into a panic and brings back bad memories of high school algebra, just use an online

right-angle calculator. The length for the lateral brace will depend on where you decide to attach the legs and the distance between the two.

Step 4

Attach the legs to the underside of the bench top with two of the strap hinges, then attach the lateral brace to the legs.

Step 5

To make the potting bench blend in when folded away, I painted my bench the same colour as my fence (Resene Lumbersider Blackjack).

Step 6

Attach the bench to the middle fence rail with the last two strap hinges, then use some leftover pallet wood to cut two swivelling lock tabs to hold the bench in place when folded away.

To watch the video, search for "potting bench" on play.stuff.co.nz. ■



JACOB LEAF (Ngāpuhi) is NZ Gardener's DIY expert. When not constructing clever DIY projects for the magazine in his west Auckland garden, he works as a visual effects artist for film and TV.