

Build an Indoor Window Planter

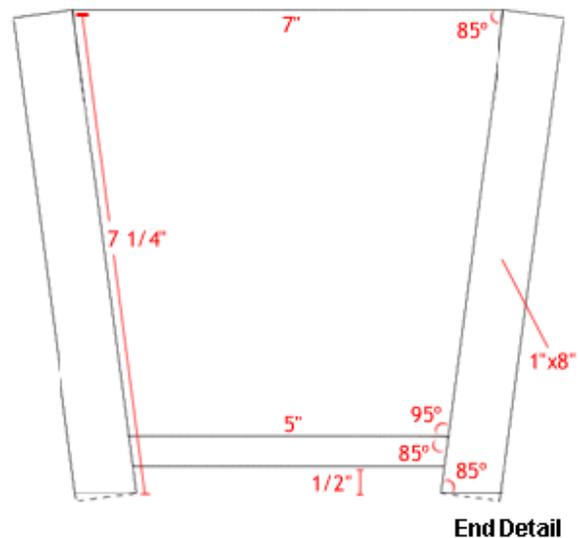
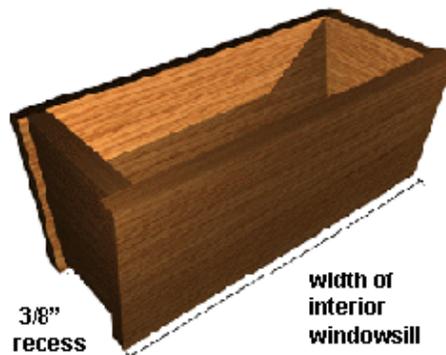
From Truevalue.com



Flower boxes do such a beautiful job of dressing up windows that it's a shame to limit their use to outdoors. So spruce up any room with this indoor window planter on a counter, a table in front of a window or on decorative brackets that you install just below the window. The container is waterproofed on the inside and will not be exposed to harsh weather conditions, so you can choose a wood and finish to complement or match your interior woodwork. You can even try your hand at a decorative painting technique such as sponging or stenciling. If you plan to paint the planter, build it with any select (knot-free) grade of wood such as pine or poplar. If you prefer a natural finish, consider a fine hardwood such as oak or maple. Normally a planter might have a vertical back but we angled both faces, enabling you to turn the planter 180 degrees so the plants won't all lean toward the sun.

Tools and Materials Checklist:

- Tape measure
- Clamps
- 1"x 8" knot-free lumber (ends, faces & optional shelf)
- Drill & 3/32" twist bit
- 1"x 6" No. 2 pine (bottom)
- Waterproof wood glue
- Saw
- Hammer
- Nail set
- 6d galvanized finishing nails or 2" finishing screws and #1 Phillips screwdriver
- Circular or table saw (optional)
- Pair of 6" decorative shelf brackets with screws
- Plane
- Plasti-Dip spray or 1/2-pt. can
- Rubber sanding block or finishing sander
- Paint or other finish and brushes
- Sandpaper (80-, 120- and 220-grit)
- Planting supplies



Step 1. Determine the Dimensions

Your indoor window planter will probably look best if it is as wide as the outside dimension of the window casing and no wider than the interior windowsill. The planter should be at least deep enough and high enough to accommodate a 6-in. diameter flower pot. The size of the design shown (at right), uses 1x8 lumber for the ends and faces and 1x6 lumber for the bottom of the planter.

Step 2. Cut and Mill the Parts

Cut the front, back, and ends from your lumber. You can use a lesser-grade lumber, such as No. 2 pine, for the bottom.

2a. Bottom: If you have a circular saw or table saw, set the bevel adjustment to 5 degrees, and rip (cut with the grain) both edges of the bottom to 5 inches wide (at the widest point). Alternatively, use a plane to bevel a 5-degree angle on the two edges. Cut the bottom 3/4 inch shorter than the length of the faces so it will be recessed 3/8 inch when assembled.

2b. Ends: Rip the 1x8 to 6 inches wide (which corresponds to the height of the ends), then cut the sides at an 85-degree angle to create a 5-in. and a 7-in. base on these two trapezoidal pieces.

2c. Faces: Rip or plane a 5-degree bevel along the bottom edge of each piece.

Steps 3-8 on back

TrueValue.

Step 3. Sand Parts Smooth

Use a rubber sanding block or finishing sander and sand all the pieces smooth; starting with 80-grit, then 120-grit, and finishing with 220-grit sandpaper. Be sure to sand along the length of the boards along with the grain.

Step 4. Assemble the Planter

Brush glue on all edges of the bottom and rest it on 1/2-in. thick spacers. Clamp the two ends onto the bottom and pre-drill 3/32-in. pilot holes for the fasteners. Secure the ends to the bottom with 6d galvanized nails or finishing screws. Glue the front and back edges of the end pieces; similarly clamp and attach the faces to the bottom and the ends. Wipe off excess glue with a damp cloth and touch up with your sander if needed.



Tip: Pre-Drilling Nails

Pre-drilling prevents the fasteners from splitting the wood (especially hardwoods) and makes it a lot easier to accurately drive the nails or finishing screws.

Step 5. Waterproof the Interior

Mask the top edge of the planter and apply Plasti-Dip to the interior surfaces. Plasti-Dip, available in spray cans or as a brush-on liquid, forms a flexible, waterproof membrane when it dries. It is available in yellow, black, red, blue, and clear.

Why Waterproof? The waterproofed interior of the planter means you can put soil directly into it, but not all plants have the same water needs. Setting pots in the planter and filling the gaps with pine bark or similar mulch will also make it easier to change plantings and maintain the planter.

Step 6. Apply a Finish

When the interior dries, reposition the masking tape over the top inside edge and finish the sides and top with any interior paint, stain, or polyurethane finish.

Step 7. Install the Planter under a Window

To mount the planter on shelf brackets or on a shelf supported by brackets, you must install those brackets with screws into solid wall framing. Glue 1/2-in. wood spacers to the bottom at the bracket locations to ensure sturdiness. Locate studs with an electronic stud finder or by a combination of tapping (listening for hollow and solid sounds) and observing the location of any baseboard nails



Tip: Placement of Brackets

If brackets secured to studs would not be symmetrically located, screw a board to the wall and then secure the bracket to the board.

Step 8. Setting Your Plants and Flowers

If you plan to place soil directly into your planter, you must provide drainage. Put at least 1-1/2 inches of crushed stone in the bottom of the planter and cover it with a layer of landscape fabric before you add soil and plants. If you prefer to keep plants in their pots, simply put the pots in the planter and fill around them with sphagnum moss, pine bark, or similar mulch. Set smaller pots on blocks of wood or on some mulch so their tops are even with those of larger plants.

Find more home improvement projects at www.truevalue.com

True Value.