What Size and How Deep?

for Raised Bed Vegetable Gardens

Width: No more than 4 feet

Never make a raised bed wider than four feet. At four feet you can reach the middle from either side without stepping in and packing down the soil.



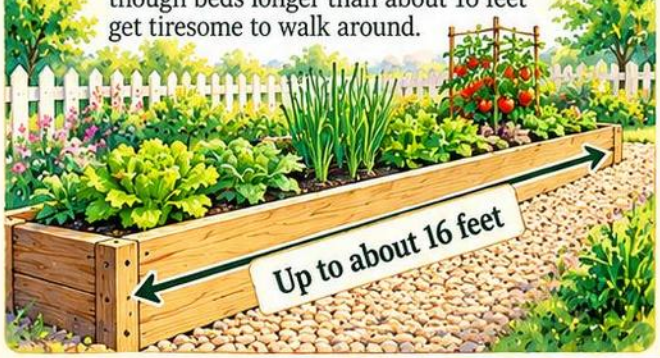
2 feet against a fence or wall

If the bed sits against a fence or wall and you can reach it from one side only, keep it to two feet wide.



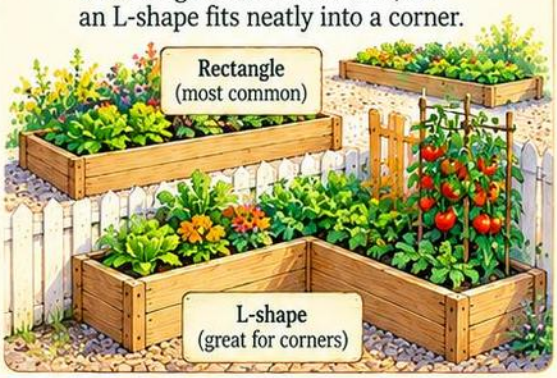
Length: as long as fits your yard

Length can be whatever fits your yard, though beds longer than about 16 feet get tiresome to walk around.



Shapes: rectangle or L-shape

A rectangle is most common, but an L-shape fits neatly into a corner.



Depth Options

6 inches



Enough only for shallow crops such as lettuce, herbs, and radishes, and only on top of loosened ground.

12 inches



The most popular depth; suits most vegetables.

18 to 24 inches



Best for carrots, tomatoes, and potatoes, and much easier on the back, since you can sit on the edge to work.