Cascading

KEYHOLE

GARDEN

Instruction Manual
Congratulations!

We’re thrilled that you chose to purchase a Vita Keyhole Garden. We’re sure that you’ll not only grow healthy foods but you’ll have fun too.

Keyhole Gardening is a gardening technique native to many communities in Africa. It’s used particularly in Rwanda, Uganda, Tanzania and Kenya. The design is such that it requires considerably less water than traditional gardens making perfect in drought prone areas. In addition to using less water, it also allows you to compost and grow in the same garden. This reduces your daily household waste and in turn reduces greenhouse gases.

With your Keyhole Garden purchase you are also supporting a great cause - helping us build Keyhole Gardens in Rwanda through the Kageyo Garden Project.

Our goal is to build 500 Keyhole Gardens in the village of Kageyo, Rwanda. In 2015 we have already built 55 Keyhole Gardens and the community is immediately benefitting with better health through the introduction of vegetables.

Follow the journey at www.VitaGardens.com/Rwanda

A Great Investment

Your new Vita Keyhole Garden is a fantastic investment for many reasons:

1. Growing your own healthy organic foods is healthy, cost effective and fun
2. Reduce your kitchen waste and greenhouse gasses
3. Create your own garden soil with easy composting
4. Reduce your water consumption
5. Naturally control weeds
6. Plant earlier (the soil warms faster)
7. Far easier on your back
Box Contents

Before you begin, please check the box for these contents. In the event of missing or defective parts please call our customer service department at 1.844.880.VITA (8482) Mon. to Fri. 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM EST.

1. Board Wall - Side - Bottom (2) 7/8” x 11” x 30 3/4” (PN: 60033)
2. Board Wall - Side - Middle (2) 7/8” x 11” x 20 3/8” (PN: 60034)
3. Board Wall - Side - Top (2) 7/8” x 11” x 10” (PN: 60035)
4. Board Wall (6) 7/8” x 11” x 33 3/4” (PN: 60036)
5. Keyhole Post (1) 6” x 6” x 33” (PN: 60037)
6. Post - A - Left & Right (2) 11” (PN: 60038)
7. Post - B - Left (1) 22” (PN: 60039)
8. Post - B - Right (1) 22” (PN: 60040)
9. Post - C - Left (1) 33” (PN: 60041)
10. Post - C - Right (1) 33” (PN: 60042)
11. Post - D - Left & Right (2) 33” (PN: 60043)
12. Post Bottom Insert (1) (PN: 10764)
13. Post Trim Cap (1) (PN: 10765)
14. L-Shaped Cap (8) (PN: 60044)
15. 5/8” Steel Screw (64) (PN: 20016)

General Info

- Read Instructions through carefully before beginning assembly.
- When assembling components, place on a non-abrasive surface (i.e. shipping box) to avoid scratching.
- We recommend an area approx 4’x 8’ for unobstructed assembling.
- You should not need to use excessive force when assembling components.
Dimensions

36” x 33” x 33” - Planter Bed
Capacity: 16 cu ft
Bags of Soil: 21 - 40 lb bags of soil.
Planting Area: 9 sq ft

Warranty
We want you to know that your new Keyhole Garden has a 20 year warranty on composite boards, and 20 year warranty on the aluminum structure against:
1. Yellowing
2. Fading
3. Rotting

Maintenance is non-existent as a simple spray with a garden hose will clean the bed from dirt, so you can spend more time growing food than maintaining your garden beds.

If you have any questions about your warranty or about Vita products please call our customer service department at 1.844.880.VITA (8482), Mon. to Fri. 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM EST.

Happy Growing!
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Happy Growing!
**Step 1A**
Assemble the four bottom boards as shown.
2x Item #1
2x Item #4
2x Item #6
2x Item #11

**Step 1B**
Fasten each board with four screws as shown (total of 16 screws)
Step 2A
Slide posts B - Left and B - Right as shown followed by two board walls (item #2)

Step 2B
Fasten each of the additional posts at the five locations shown, in addition to the four screws in the inside corner. (Total of 18 screws)
**Step 3A**

Slide Board Wall (item #4) between the two new posts. With a helper, hold the board flush to the top of the posts and fasten with a total of four screws.

**Step 3B**

Slide posts C - Left and C - Right as shown followed by two board walls (item #3)
Step 4
Fasten each of the additional posts at the seven locations shown, in addition to the four screws in the inside corner. (Total of 22 screws)
Step 5A

Slide Board Wall (item #4) between the two new posts. With a helper, hold the board flush to the top of the posts and fasten with a total of four screws.

Step 5B

Pressure fit all eight post caps into place as shown.
Step 6A
Assemble the post insert as shown.

Step 6B
Place the post insert into the planter bed as shown. Make sure the solid face is against the back wall.
Fill with soil mixture

If you’d rather just fill the garden with soil (this garden will require about 27 cu ft of soil - or about 1 cubic yard), we recommend following this method:

1. Use the box your Keyhole Garden came in. Lay it on the very bottom of the garden, as it will help draw moisture and beneficial insects up from the ground. It will turn into compost. We have water based organic inks to print on this box.

2. Fill your garden with organic soil. We usually recommend a mixture of 1/3 Garden Soil to 1/3 Compost to 1/3 Peat Moss or Coconut Coir. *Always consult with your local garden center for ideal soil mixture, and planting advice for your particular region.*

Your vegetables enjoy Peace and Harmony with this recommended soil blend.
Composting

The Composting Basket is key to adding nutrients to your garden bed. It’s here you can continually use up your regular kitchen scraps to nourish your Keyhole Garden. For best composting success use the same Brown-Green alternating technique as this helps your compost work the best.

1. Place some stones or broken pottery at the bottom of the basket. This will help drainage and encourage nutrients to enter the garden bed.

2. Using the same alternating technique (Layers of Brown & Green - a few inches of each) put in layers of compostable materials. For Brown use leaves, small sticks or cardboard. For Green use green leaves, vegetable clippings and grass.

3. As the basket begins to compost, it will shrink. Keep adding your kitchen scraps as time goes on. You can even use coffee grinds (and filters), newspaper and egg shells!

4. Once your garden is established, water primarily through the Compost Basket. This will encourage the nutrients to travel into the Keyhole Garden bed and the vegetables to grow deep to get the moisture. If the Compost Basket starts to smell rotten, it likely has too much water. Reduce the water for a few days and fluff or mix the compost basket with a pitch fork.
Things you can compost

- vegetable clippings
  - grass clippings
  - green leaves
- fruit peels and rinds
  (minimal citrus)
  - egg shells
- tea bags / tea leaves
- plant trimmings
  - apple cores
  - green twigs
  - lettuce
- house plants
  - manure
  - seaweed

- cardboard
- shredded paper
- brown leaves
  - twigs
- coffee grinds and filters
  - wine corks
  - wood ashes
  - oatmeal
  - cereal grains
- spent grains from beer making
  - sawdust
- torn up cotton clothing or burlap
www.vitagardens.com

The world needs vegetables.