



BSW  
Timber

# Timber Sleeper Installation Guidance

A step-by-step guide from BSW Timber



# Our UC4 sleepers are a versatile option for a range of landscaping projects.

From boundaries, edgings and planters to distinctive raised beds, borders, decks, terraces and walkways, sleepers are perfect for that next job.

BSW's range of sleepers are pressure treated to Use Class 4 in either a brown or green finish which protects them from rot and decay.

## Available sizes

Thickness (mm)	Width (mm)	Length (mm)
100	200	2400
125	250	2400



## Installing raised beds

- Clear the area by removing any vegetation and level out the ground. You can use string to mark out where the bed will go. The basic construction is a box shape with an open bottom to allow for drainage.



- Using the string as a guide, place the first row of sleepers onto the ground to make the square shape with alternative ends to the face of the corresponding sleepers.



- To protect against roots and weeds, you need to line the base of your raised bed with a large piece of geotextile membrane.

- If you need to cut your sleepers to a different length, ensure you treat cut ends with end grain preservative. Sleepers are hard work to cut with a handsaw – ask your local timber merchant if they can crosscut to length for you.

**WARNING:** Never use a chainsaw unless you are properly qualified!



- Using a drill (pilot holes may be required) or impact driver fix the first row of sleepers to each other through the face into the corresponding end of each sleeper using a 150mm exterior screw or coach bolt. Two per corner is ideal.
- Attach the UC4 posts to each of the sleepers in each corner on the inside of the square using 150mm exterior screws or coach bolts.



- Half-fill the box with drainage material such as gravel.
- To gain more height you can add multiple rows of sleepers (2 levels of sleepers equal a 400mm or 500mm high bed depending on the section size you have chosen).



- Overlap the sleeper joints and attach sleepers together, and to the posts, using the same method outlined above.
- Add soil mix to around 100mm below the top of the sleepers. Plant your seedlings as required and water.
- You can make your raised bed any size to suit your garden by combining different lengths and layers of sleepers.



## The right tools for the job



### You will need:

- Tape measure
- String
- End grain preservative
- Spirit Level
- Brush
- Saw
- Drill
- 150mm coach bolts
- Geotextile membrane
- 1 x 75x75x2400mm UC4 fence post (cut to 400mm lengths)
- 4 x 100x200x2400mm or 125x250x2400mm UC4 Sleepers
- Mulch
- Soil

These instructions are based on a 2.4m x 2.4m raised bed. Quantities can be adjusted to fit the size you need.

## Installing vertical sleepers

- Vertical sleepers need to be secured into the ground in a similar fashion to fence posts.
- One third of the overall height of the sleeper should be inserted into the ground.
- If you must trim the end of your sleeper, ensure that you treat the cut end with end grain preservative. The cut end should not go into the ground.

- Position the sleeper in place, and secure with hardcore or gravel – this aids drainage.
- Pour in the concrete mix, as per the manufacturer's instructions so that it just comes above ground level and ensure that the sleeper is square using your spirit level. You may attach a timber batten to act as a strut to hold the sleeper in place whilst the concrete sets.

- Smooth down the concrete with a trowel, sloping it away from the sleeper to ensure rainwater run-off.

- If creating a solid run of sleepers for your wall you may utilise a metal strip or wire to connect and strengthen the sleepers.





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