

Sleepers

Wooden sleepers have a great many landscaping applications, from building a raised bed to creating steps and retaining walls. We carry an extensive range of garden sleepers and are confident that we have the right product to suit your particular project.

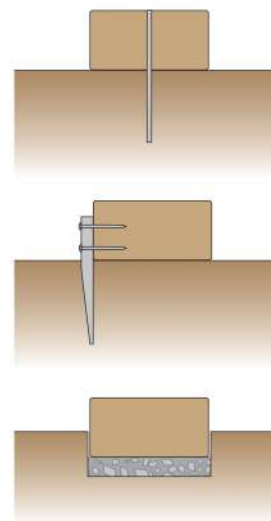
Harry has come up with some easy, step-by-step instructions for a couple of his favourite projects, but if you have something else in mind, don't be afraid to be creative, the basic fixing and fastening methods are the same.

Check out our Landscaping product pages for the full range of sleepers available (page 35).

Fixing Sleepers

There are three main methods for securely attaching sleepers to the ground.

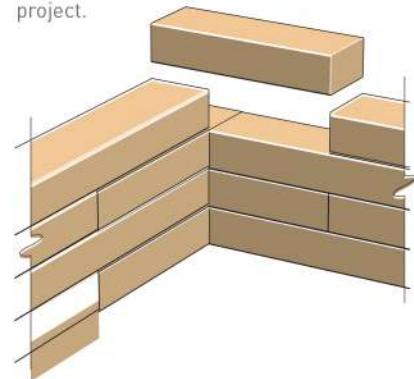
1. Pre-drill the sleeper and insert a metal rod to (at least) the depth of the sleeper.
2. Screw-fix a metal log roll pin or wooden stake - one to each end of the sleeper.
3. Dig a 75mm deep trench and use MetCrete to provide a base 25 - 30mm deep.



Building and fastening

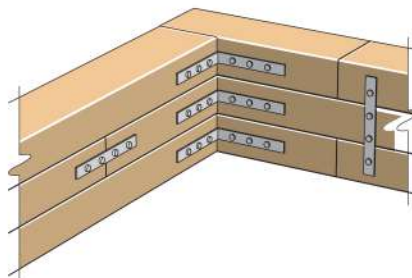
Building

Build corners and walls using the coursing method as shown below. This will provide strength and stability to your project.

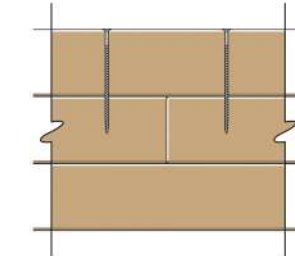


Fastening

For walls, fasten the sleepers together with Grange Straight Landscape Connectors. At corners use Grange Angle Landscape Connectors.



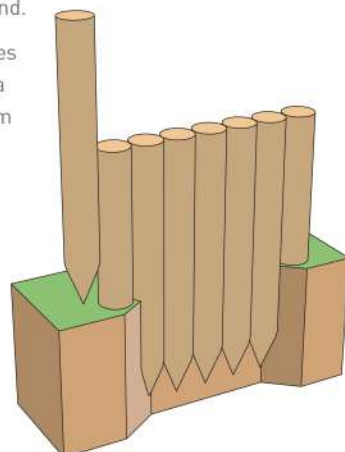
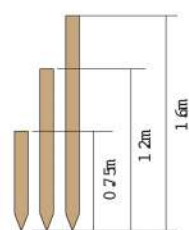
Alternatively, fasten the sleepers together with good quality screws. Each screw should penetrate the lower sleeper to at least half its depth.



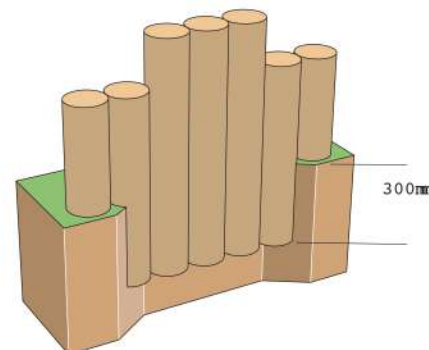
Landscaping poles and bollards

Landscaping poles are available in three sizes and can be used to create different levels. A point at one end of the pole allows them to be driven directly into the ground.

For retaining applications the poles should be driven into the ground a minimum of 300mm. Up to 600mm for the longer landscape pole.

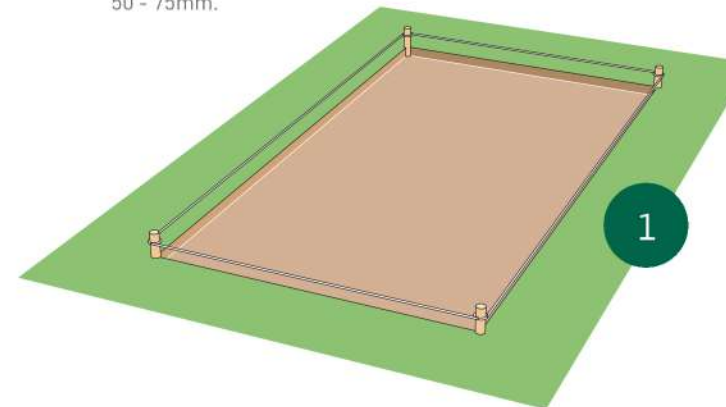


Bollards have a bigger diameter than landscape poles and are not pointed at the end. They may be cut down to provide a variation in height. They should be sunk into the ground a minimum of 300mm to provide stability and may be strengthened by using MetCrete at their base. When used as a retaining wall, a minimum of 600mm should be set below ground into a concrete foundation.

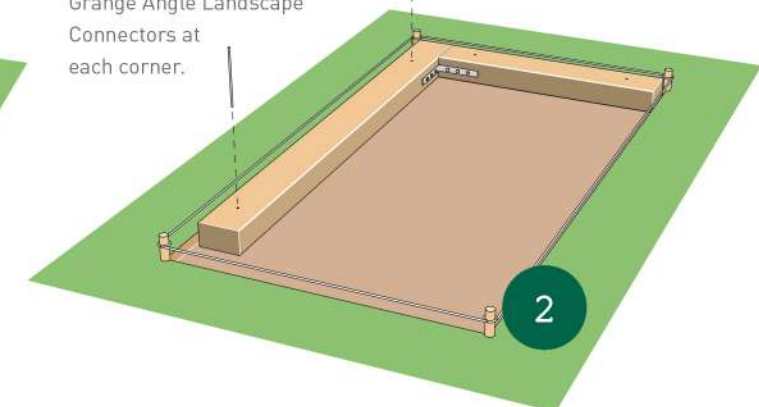


Project 1 - Build a raised bed

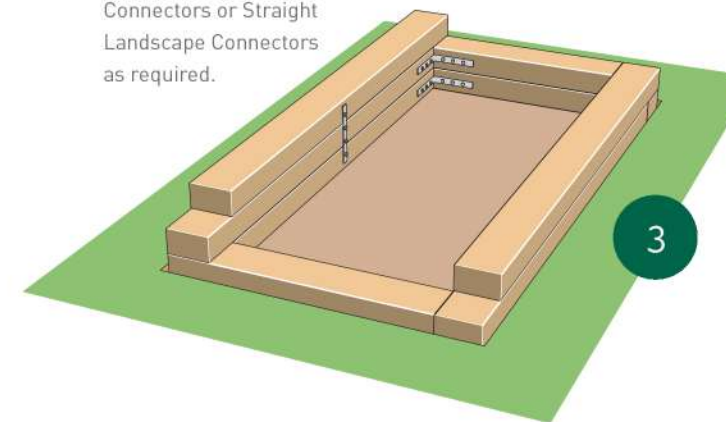
Using stakes and a string line, mark out the area of your raised bed. Dig out area of bed to depth of 50 - 75mm.



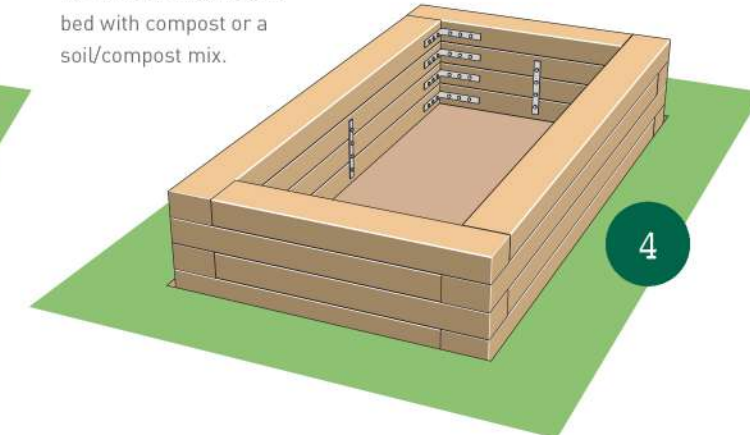
Start laying out the bottom course of sleepers, fixing them to the ground with metal rods. Fit Grange Angle Landscape Connectors at each corner.



Continue laying your sleepers using the coursing method described above. Fit Grange Angle Landscape Connectors or Straight Landscape Connectors as required.



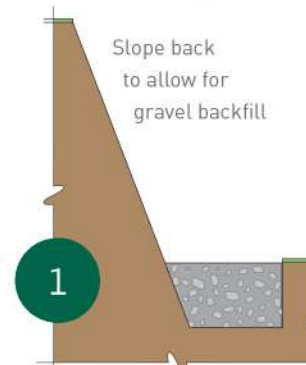
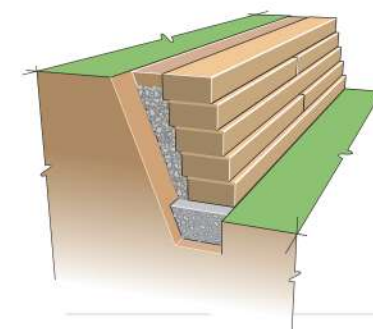
To aid drainage, fill the base with hardcore to a depth of 50 - 75mm. Then fill the bed with compost or a soil/compost mix.



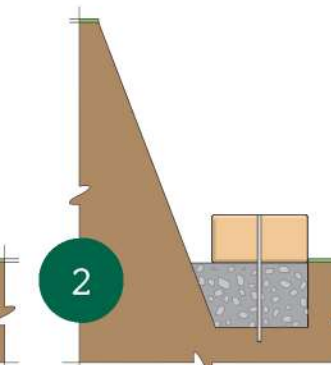
Project 2 - Build a retaining wall

Sleepers may be used vertically or horizontally when building a retaining wall. Horizontally laid sleepers are recommended for low level walls.

It is vital to use the coursing method described above in order to strengthen your wall and maintain its integrity.

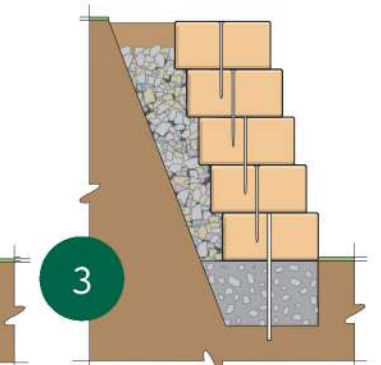


Prepare a 50mm deep footing for your wall using a sand and cement mortar mix.



Lay the first course of sleepers and fix by inserting metal rods through pre-drilled holes into the footings as shown above.

Continue building to the top. Maintain the 25mm step-back and ensure all sleepers are firmly fixed to the ones below.



Lay the second course on top of the first, setting it back 25mm from the front. Fix firmly to the lower course using screws.

Backfill with gravel to aid drainage. Top off with a layer of soil.