contact@ekolomundo.org
https://www.ekolomundo.org
https://www.ekolomundo.org/adherer

Tips for creating a rooftop garden



Where should you set up your rooftop garden?

This idea will be easier to implement if you're lucky enough to have a **rooftop terrace**. However, you need to choose the location of your future garden carefully:

- Far enough from the edge, even if there are railings. This is a safety issue, especially if you have children.
- Next, consider sunlight exposure. If the neighboring building is taller, choose a spot that gets the most sunlight during the day (10 hours a day is ideal).
- Since the roof is exposed to the wind, you may need to install windbreaks using a hedge, a structure, or a tarp that you secure to the ground to prevent them from blowing away.
- Finally, consider the proximity of a water source, since you'll need to water your vegetables.
- Make sure you can easily and safely transport materials and harvest produce from your garden.

Setting up the rooftop

• Setting up a vegetable garden **in a small space** also requires a place to store gardening tools, an area for sowing seeds and sheltering seedlings, and another for your wooden compost

bin, if applicable.

• Ideally, install a rainwater collection system. This is more eco-friendly, as you won't be wasting drinking water on irrigation.

• If needed, install a lighting system for winter mornings and evenings, when you'll want to check on your vegetables after getting home from work.

• And if you have the space, this is also a great opportunity to create a little reading nook, or set up a small table and chairs for happy hour on the roof!

Creating the "rooftop garden" itself

Raised pots or planters as a guide to urban gardening: It's clear that you won't be able to grow plants directly in the ground. To overcome this small obstacle, "soil-less" gardening is the obvious solution, as is a vertical garden.

You can then place large round, square, or rectangular pots here and there—the shape doesn't matter! The goal is also to have a beautiful rooftop garden. Additionally, you'll need to plan for space to move between and around the garden containers (about 80 cm of walkway) to make maintaining the garden easier.

You can elevate them or opt for a raised garden bed for greater convenience (and to spare your back!)

Is your roof small and more like a balcony? In that case, choose to create rectangular planters that you'll install along the railing, then shelf-style planters on the wall side.

You can also purchase ready-to-use corner vegetable gardens or stepped vegetable beds made from FSC-certified wood.

Drainage and Water Runoff

This is one of the challenges of a rooftop garden. You must absolutely consider drainage for your elevated garden and your pots so that the roots don't end up in excess water or even

drown.

Here are a few ideas:

- Install a geotextile fabric at the bottom of the garden: this allows water to pass through and helps aerate the soil,
- Create a base layer of drainage material and drill holes in the bottom of the pots and containers
- In principle, roofs are waterproof—and thankfully so! What's important is that water can drain away easily.

Prepare good soil for your vegetable garden: The ideal soil for a vegetable patch is loose, well-draining, and nutrient-rich. Next, consider mulching the garden by spreading wood chips or shredded green waste.

Regulations

You should check with the building's homeowners' association before starting your rooftop garden project. In particular, you need to ensure that the roof can support the weight of your garden, that it is properly waterproofed, and that there is no danger to you or other occupants, etc.

For single-family homes, a permit from the city hall is required

Galerie d'images

