



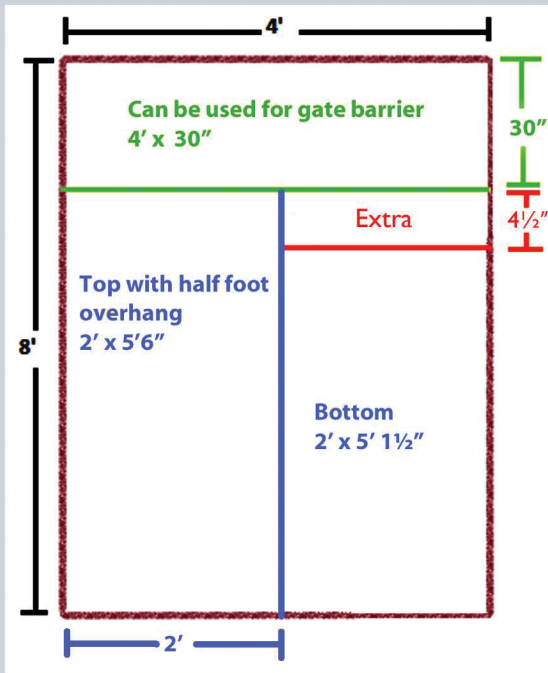
## Easy aboveground wood frame burrow

*How to construct an economical burrow.*

### Materials

- 1 sheet 4' x 8' 23/32 plywood (not particle board)
- 2 boards 2" x 10" x 8' Douglas fir or similar
- 1 box (50) 3" wood screws
- 4-mil continuous plastic sheeting (minimum width 3')
- 6 half-height cinder blocks
- 3½ tons dirt/chat/reject sand

More 2" x 10" x 6' growboards may be needed to make burrow snug  
 Approximate cost \$75 (plus \$110 for 3½ tons of dirt/chat/reject sand, delivered)



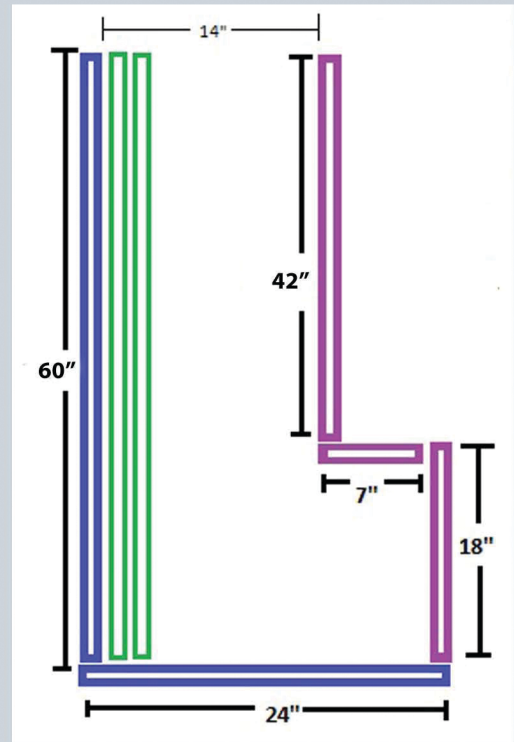
### CUTTING

Cut the 4' x 8' plywood sheet according to the diagram above.

Cut 61½" piece and 24" piece from 8' board (blue).

Cut 42", 7" and 18" from second 8' board (pink).

Use as many growboards as necessary (green) to keep the burrow snug depending on the size of the tortoise.



**NOTE:** Diagrams are not to scale.

Please see other side for assembly



# Aboveground Burrow Assembly

**NOTE:** There should be no gaps in between any pieces of wood where a tortoise's nails could get caught.

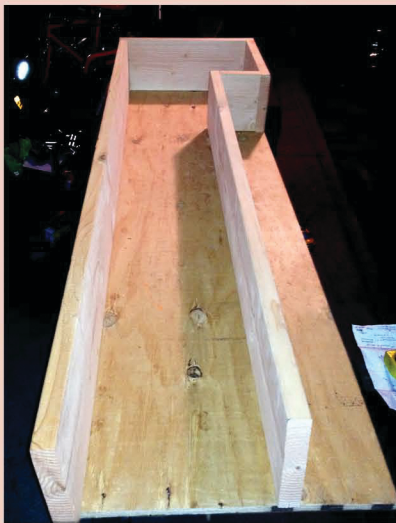
## Ground preparation:

Level or raise a 5'6" x 2'6" area of ground area by 2 or 3 inches.

1. Assemble frame using 3 screws per joint.

**NOTE:** Assemble according to photo to ensure tortoise does not catch nails in any joints when turning around.

2. Place 4-mil plastic on leveled area, with an overlap of a few inches at the edges.



3. Secure frame to bottom sheet (5' 11/2" x 2') of plywood with a screw every 8-12" from the outside.

4. Size the channel to your tortoise with 2" x 10" x 5' growboards.

Add sifted dirt to the channel to ensure a snug, but not tight, fit. (See chart on [Making Your Burrow Snug](#) sheet.)



**If you are adopting from Tortoise Group, call us to come out for an inspection at this point!**

5. Attach plywood top, placing screws every 8-12". Make sure screws do not stick inside burrow or into growboards. Place half-sized cinder blocks on top to hold dirt.

- The top is longer to prevent rain entering the burrow.

6. Mound 3 1/2 tons of [sifted dirt](#), [chat](#) or [reject sand](#) on top of the burrow to create a gentle slope. Add small boulders, flagstone, or bricks to entrance to hold back dirt.



**Do not use glue or paint in the burrow, as the fumes are toxic to tortoises.**