PLYWOOD COLD FRAME

WHAT'S A COLD FRAME

Hi, welcome to my site. A cold frame is basically a mini greenhouse that you can use in cold weather climates to get your plants out earlier in the season without the fear of the occasional frost or cold weather killing them. This cold frame shows a floor on it as it's being used on a second story deck but usually it wouldn't have a floor so you can place it on the ground and plant directly in the soil.

I've included pictures and drawings in the instructions to help you see what I did along the way. I hope there's enough detail and instructions to help you create yours. If you have any questions don't hesitate to let me know in the comments.

If you like the information please help us by subscribing to our YouTube Channel and giving us a thumbs up. Give us a shout out while you're there as well!

We're dedicated to helping you grow and hope you can help us grow our channel as well because remember; "If you're not growing; you're not green!"

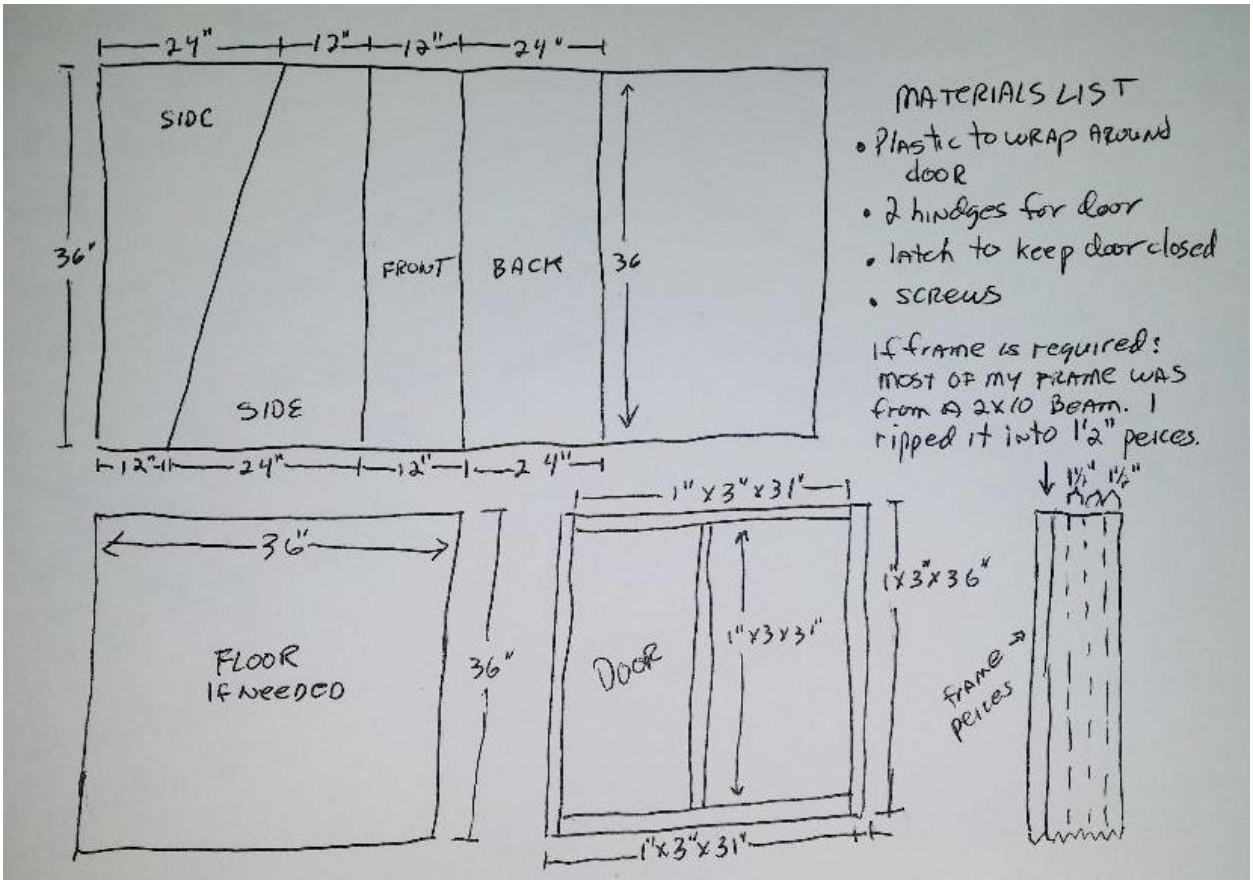
Rene Bastarache, TGG *(The Green Guy)*
http://WhyAmIGreen.com

INSTRUCTIONS

These are the instructions to build my 36” square cold frame. You can be flexible on the materials with this. I originally wanted to make it 48” square but all my plywood was 36” souse whatever you have.

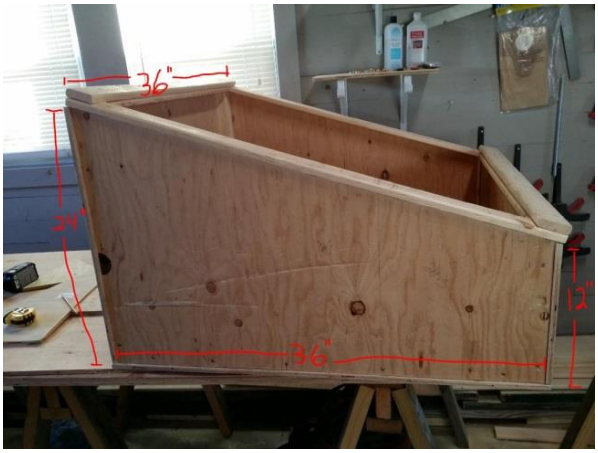
I make it 24 inches high as my green beans were almost that height already. Again make it the height you want for your needs.

Here’s a rough hand-drawn plan of how I cut the plywood sheet to get the most pieces out of it. I use two sheets of 3/8’ and had plenty left over.



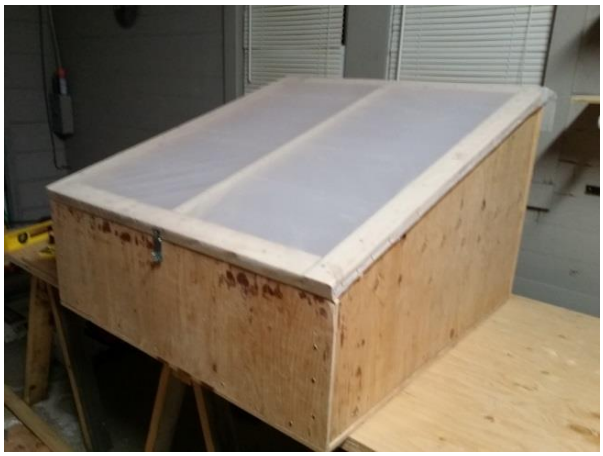
I used 1/4” plywood because I had lots of it for flooring in my garage. Since it’s so thin I used 1 1/2” pine to frame it for strength. I ripped the pieces from a 2”x10” beam I had left over from another project. You can use 1”x3” pine strapping in if you like.

If you don't want to spend the extra time adding framing to the unit I suggest that you use ½" to ¾" plywood for yours. It's strong enough by itself to not need a frame.



The plans are for the thicker plywood build without the framing so you can build it faster and easier. If you decide to frame it you can just measure the lengths to fit in the seams after building the box as I did.


It just gives you more meat to screw into and makes it sturdier in the long-run.



COVER

The cover is simply made by connecting 4, 1”x3” pine boards together to form a square as seen in the picture. I ran another piece in the middle so the plastic wouldn’t flap in the wind or sag as much. If your square isn’t sturdy on square you can cut four small triangles of plywood and screw one onto each corner to keep its shape.

Once your square is complete simply cover it with plastic on both sides and staple it onto your frame. I allowed the plastic to overlap a bit so I could staple in on the edges as well so there was not exposed wood showing.

I screwed on the hinges under the plastic and connected the door to the unit. I then stapled the end plastic over the hinges and let it extend a couple inches to overlap the gap. This helps keeps the heat the in the box as heat rises and could escape if it was an open gap.

All that's left is to screw on a hasp of some sort to keep the door closed during a windy day and to keep the critters out. Here's a picture on the one I connected. I'm also including a picture of the hook I attached to the left of the hasp so I could open the door and hook it open securely on the side of the deck. I had the door come crashing down on me once from the wind while I had my arms full of seedlings. Needless to say I couldn't catch it in time and the seedlings were quite upset as well.

That's it! Happy building and keep being Green!