

Best Ideas On Growing A Garden In 5 Gallon Buckets

Container gardening – growing plants in 5-gallon buckets, for example – is usually discussed in the context of (not enough) space.

The idea is that if you don't have a "real" garden because you live in an apartment or your backyard is too small, container gardening would make for the best option. And 5 gallon buckets are the ultimate containers both in terms of availability and shape.

Also, they're highly mobile, meaning that you can put them in the best spots to catch the sun and so on and so forth. Due to their versatility, resilience and low cost, [5-gallon buckets](#) are already famous in the prepper community and they've also captured the imaginations of home gardeners.

Now, if you have enough buckets and you're ready to put them to good use, just keep reading folks!

Even if you don't have them yet, just poke around a little bit and you'll discover that 5-gallon buckets are the definition of "readily available," "dirt cheap" items. Just go cruise your nearby stores and restaurants or check out Craigslist.

Getting back to business, gardeners are doing remarkable things with 5-gallon buckets, things that you can't even imagine actually. This humble piece of plastic is a tool of a thousand uses, which makes it extremely valuable to a prepper.

However, keep in mind that you must stay away from secondhand buckets that were used to hold toxic stuff, like paint or what not. The ideal 5-gallon bucket to use for gardening purposes should be made out of food grade plastic, at least in a

perfect world.

Now, if you're going to grow flowers (as in non-edible stuff), you can forget about the food grade thingy, but keep an eye on toxic materials just in case.

Speaking of bucket supply, you have 2 choices: to buy brand new 5-gallon buckets from building supply stores or hardware stores, or to go scavenging bakeries, local restaurants, grocery stores, and similar places. These buckets often come with plastic fitted lids, so remember—it never hurts to ask, alright?

Now and then, you may be asked to cough up a couple of bucks for a sturdy, clean, used 5-gallon bucket, but that's definitely worth it if it's the right type. Even if they smell a little weird (they are used often for storing pickles and/or frozen products), don't worry – the smell will go away relatively easy if you clean them right.

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With all these considerations taken care of, let's see about some projects involving 5-gallon buckets, shall we?

Project 1 – DIY Alaska Grow Bucket

If you're already scratching your head, an Alaska Grow Bucket is the scientific term for a bottom watering container. There's nothing complicated, just fancy talk. These are the easiest DIY watering containers anyone can make to grow their own food at home.

The materials required are cheap and easy to acquire. Besides the famous 5-gallon bucket, you'll need a fabric shopping bag and a plastic kitchen colander – you know, that piece of gear used for draining rice or pasta.

You'll have to drill some ventilation holes (the more the better) and another irrigation hole for the water feed line. Ideally, you should use a power drill, but you can always improvise if you're a meat eater. The irrigation line should be drilled as low on the bucket as possible, and then you'll insert a plastic, T-shaped connector.

Project 2 – The Hanging Bucket Planter

If you don't have much space, e.g. you're living in a condo, you can DIY a [hanging bucket planter](#) for growing organic tomatoes. Obviously, you can use hanging bucket planters for growing a large variety of stuff, not only tomatoes, those are just a suggestion because tomatoes are a popular choice.

Also, if you have a small yard, this type of project will suit you like a glove. Making the best of one's available space is next to Godliness for a true prepper, right?

For making tomato gardening great again, you'll need:

- a hook
- a 5 gallon bucket
- steel cable (galvanized utility wire)
- a wall (the bucket will hang by the hook hammered/drilled in the wall).

The idea is that hanging a bucket planter outside your condo's wall will provide your plants with plenty of sunshine, which is a necessary ingredient for growing big fat tomatoes (along with water and carbon dioxide).

Video first seen on [Peter P.](#)

Project 3 – The Raised Bed Bucket

Here you'll learn how to grow veggies successfully in a raised bed garden using the famous 5-gallon bucket, thus making for a garden within a garden or something along these lines.

With this cool technique, you'll be able to grow more food in less space and that's the definition of efficiency and sustainability (don't worry, I hate Agenda 21 too).

Here's an interesting video about the reasons for growing vegetables in raised bed gardens.

Video first seen on [Learn Organic Gardening at GrowingYourGreens](#).

The concept behind this project is that plastic buckets are used for providing more soil depth for the plants thus allowing for more nutrients, more space for root growth and less frequent watering. This technique makes for a cool hack which will enable you to grow deep-rooted plants in a shallow garden.

Project 4 – The Self-watering Planter

This DIY job makes for the easiest way to build sub irrigated self-watering planters using PVC pipe, a 5 gallon bucket, and a milk jug for practically next to zero costs. You'll have to cut some holes in the bottom of the bucket that are large enough for the water to drain through, so you'll not flood your plants. It's easiest to use a drill for this.

The jug must be placed inside the bucket with the PVC pipe stuck on the top of the milk jug. The jug gets filled with water (you'll have to drill some holes in the upper part of the jug too) and then the bucket must be filled up with dirt, then you put a plant in it. Pretty simple and highly

efficient.

Video first seen on [Growing Little Ones for Jesus](#).

Project 5 – The Hydroponics

Finally, here's a cool idea about how to build a hydroponic DWC system with a trellis-type system for growing cucumbers, and obviously it involves a 5-gallon bucket. This project is a little bit more complicated, but it's doable with a little bit of research and elbow grease.

The supply list includes a 5-gallon bucket, a 6" bucket lid net pot which can be bought online or at a local hydroponics store, a small airstone and air-pump (from Walmart), black hose for the airline, vinyl tee fittings, clear vinyl tubing, rubber grommets and wire green border fence.

Video first seen on [Jksax914](#).

Now that you know how to grow a garden in a 5-gallon bucket, you could learn how to DIY your own portable device for an endless water supply.

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*This article has been written by **Chris Black** for Survivopedia.*