

Make Your Own Plant Rack!

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• Text & Pictures by Richmond Tan • Edited by Wilson Wong •

Most Singaporeans live in high-rise apartments and for those who live in flats with no balcony and still like to do gardening, they can only do so along the corridor located outside their homes. Because most corridors are flanked on one side by a solid concrete parapet, plants need to be elevated from the floor so that they can receive sufficient sunlight required for growth.



Above: In a corridor garden, potted plants need to be elevated from the floor so that they can receive sufficient sunlight required for growth.

Various ways are adopted by corridor gardeners to elevate their plants. Some use pots and even buckets stacked on top of one another whereas some others custom make stainless steel plant racks. The latter approach commands a higher price tag.

To save cost, one can attempt to make a plant rack using readily available materials. An idea came to me when I was arranging my plants along the corridor. My plant collection grew exponentially and I ran out of space to grow them. I saw a pile of renovation waste outside the lift lobby and I picked up some and started to experiment with them.



Above: My self-made plant rack allows me to hang commercially available metal plant pot holders using having to custom make a rack to elevate my pots.

I managed to build my own rack by hanging up a length of PVC pipe using S-hooks which served as a support which I could then hang commercially available pot holders. The making of this 'do it yourself' (DIY) plant rack requires minimal hands-on and can be completed within an hour.

One need not deliberately buy PVC pipes and wire casings for this project. They are materials that are often discarded by contractors and they can be picked up to make this plant rack. By doing so, one can help to play a part in recycling! Therefore, this plant rack is not only affordable but also eco-friendly. Developing new gardening hardware is fun and also part of gardening too!

PROJECT PART ONE

Materials



Some of the materials needed include a length of PVC wire casing, metal S-hooks and cable ties. A pair of pliers is needed to bend metal. A PVC pipe that is needed is not shown above.

Procedure



STEP 1

A PVC pipe is suspended from the parapet railing by means of two metal S-hooks.

One of the first things I noticed after I constructed this plant rack was that when pot holders are hung directly onto the PVC pipe, they become positioned in an awkward angle. I then fastened short lengths of PVC wire casing to the base of each of the pot holder. The correct length of wire casing is needed to help to align the pot holder in such a way that it is held perpendicular to the parapet wall and horizontal to the floor.



STEP 2

Fasten a length of PVC wire casing by means with a cable tied to the base of the plant holder. The length of wire casing required varies and needs to be measured on-site.

YOU ARE DONE!

The PVC wire casing helps to prop up the pot holder at an angle that permits it to be positioned at right angles from the parapet wall.



PROJECT PART TWO

An improved version was developed soon after. Instead of using PVC casings to support the pot holders, I attached a rectangular PVC pipe frame onto the original PVC pipe and the addition of the frame does not require me to modify the pot holders anymore.



Left:

The improved version with a rectangular PVC pipe frame attached to the original PVC pipe. Note that the rectangle rests just below the parapet ledge.

Right:

Note how the rectangular PVC frame is attached to the main PVC pipe by using a long screw which can be bought from most hardware shops.





Left:

Note how the pot-holder rests against the rectangular PVC pipe holder for support so that it stays perpendicular to the parapet wall.

Word of Caution

Please practise safe and considerate gardening along the corridor – do not attempt to grow plants that are tall or elevate them too high up before the parapet wall!

Potted plants grown in an unsafe manner can become dislodged and fall off from the plant rack. These can then become killer litter which can endanger someone's life!

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