

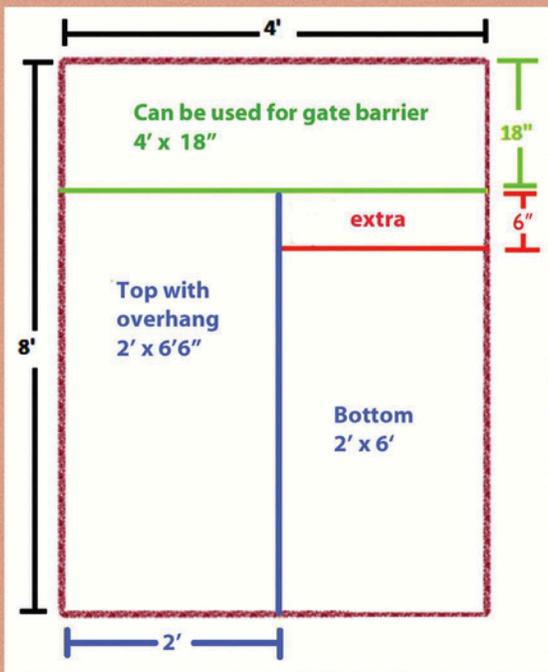


## Easy underground wood frame burrow

*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')
- ¾ ton dirt/chat/reject sand, if needed
- More 2" x 10" x 6' growboards may be needed to make burrow snug
- Approximate cost \$60 (not including dirt/chat/reject sand)



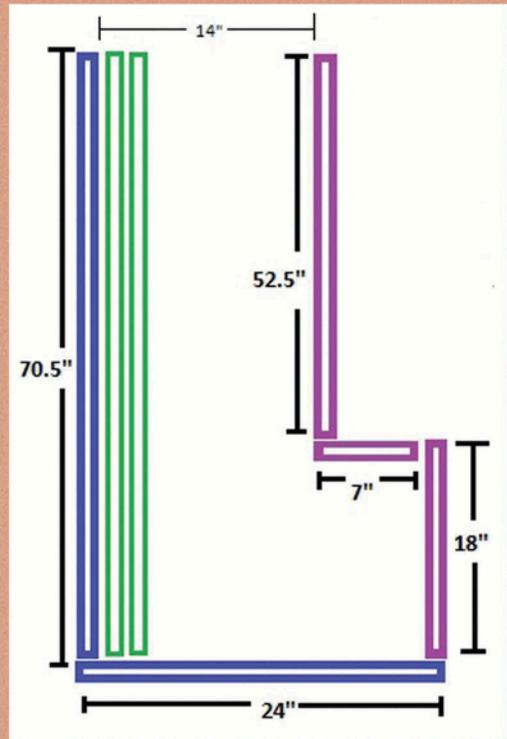
### CUTTING

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

Cut 70.5" piece and 24" piece from 8' board (blue).

Cut 52.5", 7" and 18" from second 8' board (purple).

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 second page for assembly

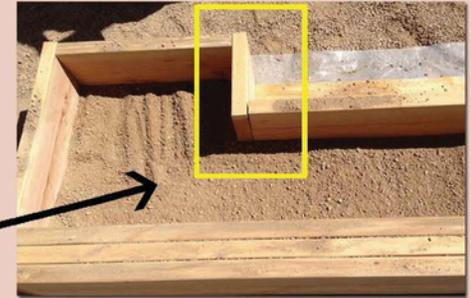
# Underground Burrow Assembly

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

## Ground preparation:

Dig a 'wedge' 6'6" long and 28-30" wide. Dig 15-18" deep at one end, then slope to ground level for the entrance. Ensure the area is completely flat.

1. Assemble frame using three screws per joint. **NOTE:** Assemble according to photo to ensure tortoise does not catch nails in any joint when turning around.



2. Secure frame to bottom sheet (6' x 2') of plywood with a screw every 8-12" from the outside.

3. Size the channel to your tortoise with 2" x 10" x 6' 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!

4. When attaching plywood top, place screws every 8-12" making sure screws enter sides and do not stick inside burrow or into growboards.

• The top is longer to prevent rain entering the burrow. The burrow should stick up beyond ground level a little to prevent flooding.



5. Slide burrow into wedge area.

6. Fill in the excavated area, and extend the fill to unexcavated ground to create a gentle mound so rain will run off. 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.**