Square Foot Gardening Construction: Information for creating your raised bed garden: Product information and costs from Lowes, below. Lumber can be "found" or purchased from Lowes or Home Depot. All prices below are without tax. Prices subject to change. Weed block matting and nylon netting for trellis (vertical growing) are available for purchase online at www.squarefootgardeing.com

LUMBER for 4x4' raised bed: *AS OF 9/09 FROM LOWES:
Tools required for assembly: drill, battery powered screw driver or regular screw driver.

QTY	ITEM#	ITEM DESCRIPTION	VENDOR PART#	PRICE
1	95716	2x6X16 UNTREATED LUMBER	95716	7.33
1	12244	LATH, 10/PC 6' LONG		7.68
1		2.5-3" DECK SCREWS, 1 LB SIZE, 12 screws/4x4 bed		8.00
24		ASST. 3/4" WOOD SCREWS TO CONNECT LATH		?
TOTAL COST FOR ONE BASIC 4X4' RAISED BED:				~ $22.00

Directions: Raised Bed frame: At Lowes, have them make 3 cuts from a 16' 2x6x16 to make 4 sides of raised bed garden. To assemble square: line up each 4' wood piece, end-to-end, such that you get a real square shape. Obtain 12 deck screws. To avoid splitting of wood, pre-drill each hole for screw. Use drill to insert 3 screws per corner.
Options: Weed Matting: (keep weeds from coming up!) Purchase one 4' section of 4'wide weed matting from www.squarefootgardeing.com will cost around $2.40. This will create a strong and long lasting weed barrier so weeds will not grow up into your garden or paths.

Directions For Grid: Have Lowes also cut down 10 pieces of 6' lath (all at once) to 4' 1 to 4' 2" lengths. Create the Grid by using 6 of the 4'sections of cut lath. Arrange 3 -4 foot sections of lath horizontally and 3-4 foot sections of lath vertically such that you get a grid of 16 equal squares. Use small wood screws to attach vertical and horizontal lath strips. Once the center intersections are secured, attach this grid to the raised bed frame, **AFTER** the soil has been added. *Keep the extra lath strips on hand should you need replacement strips due to possible breakage.
Option: Burrowing Critter prevention: Attach chicken or other type of wire to bottom of raised bed frame. Purchase 4' 4" square section of wire and attach via staples and hammer.
Option: Deer prevention: Use 8' stakes around perimeter of raised bed garden layout and purchase 8' tall deer netting and attach to stakes or create smaller wire-framed or netting covers over raised bed gardens.
Directions: Optional Vertical Trellis: Purchase one 4' section of special nylon netting which comes in 4' widths from www.squarefootgardening.com. Go to Lowes and purchase the following:
TRELLIS

QTY	ITEM#	ITEM DESCRIPTION	VENDOR PART#	PRICE
2	12180	REBAR PINS-#4 ½" X 18"		3.32
3	118909	½" EMT CONDUIT 5 FEET LONG	040051	4.11
2		½" EMT INSIDE CORNER ELBOW 1BA	49591	8.76
1		TUBING CUTTER, 1/8-1 1/8" DIAM.		~ 9.00 *borrow one!
1	4x4' piece	Nylon Netting (www.squarefootgardening.com)		2.40
TOTAL COST FOR TRELLIS/TOOLS				18.59 + $9 for tubing cutter

A raised bed will last for years. The lattice grid can be removed in winter for easy storage on a wall along with the trellis.

***A 3x3' garden** will require 4 – 3 foot sections from a 2x6x12 foot piece of lumber, 12 deck screws and 4 – 3' 2" long sections of lath to make the 3' x 3' grid, along with 12 ¾" screws to attach lath to raised bed.
The trellis will require only a 3' long section of netting and a 3 foot wide trellis top bar.

SQUARE FOOT GARDEN SOIL Mix:

Each 4x4' raised bed will hold 6 inches of soil mix.

Each 4'x4' raised bed will require 8 cubic feet of soil mix:
4' wide X 4' long X ½ foot deep = 8 cubic feet

You will need about 2.7 cubic yards EACH of compost, peat moss and coarse grade vermiculite to create the 6 inches of special soil mix that will eliminate weeds, excessive watering and that will supply all the nutrients that plants require, organically!

Each 4'x4' raised bed will require a mix of the following:
1/3 Coarse Grade Vermiculite, 1/3 Peat Moss and 1/3 Compost Blend:

1/3 coarse grade (A-3) vermiculite, horticultural grade certified asbestos free. *NOT fine grade typically used for starting seeds.

1. www.greenhousemegastore.com for a 4 cubic foot bag= $20.00
   (Two 4-cubic foot bags of vermiculite will be enough for three- 4x4' garden beds)
   *unfortunately, shipping costs are high:~ $13 per 4 cubic foot bag plus shipping for a total cost of 3 for each bag of vermiculite!
2. www.griffins.com Whittemore A3 vermiculite, medium 6 cubic foot bag: Ewing, NJ 609-530-9120
   6 cubic foot bag costs around $22.28. Call for availability.
3. Levitt's LLC, 621 Edwards Rd., Parsippany, NJ 07054 TEL: 973-227-0552 FAX: 973-227-3174
   Levitt's LLC
   P.O. Box 613
   Pine Brook, NJ 07058 email : barry@levittsLLC.comFor any questions: call 800-451-3762.

1/3 Peat Moss *available in garden centers: Full bale = 3.9 cubic feet compressed=8 cubic feet loose
Half bale = 2.2 cubic feet, compressed=4 cubic feet loose
*a half bale will be enough for 2 raised bed gardens

1/3 compost – A mix preferred of various composts including poultry compost, mushroom compost, composted steer manure and other types to make up the 2.7 cubic yards per 4x4' garden bed. Available in garden centers.

***ALTERNATIVE SOIL**: Mel has claimed that growing in store purchased soil mixes like miracle grow or Pro-Mix (available at nurseries) or pure compost is a decent alternative to making the above mix and the addition of some peat moss will make the mix more moisture retentive. He has recommended growing in pure compost as well.

For 3'x3' gardens for children or special applications:
3' wide x 3' long x ½ foot deep = 4.5 cubic feet of soil mix required
You will need approximately 1.5 cubic feet of the following: coarse grade vermiculite, peat moss and compost.
With these materials, there is of course, cost. Please note that these are a one time cost for raised beds. Once the soil is mixed and installed, you need only add one or two trowels of compost after each harvest before replanting. The vermiculite will never decompose and will not mold or mildew. The actual box beds will last for many, many years. Grids may have to be periodically replaced, should someone accidentally walk on them and break them!