

# HOW TO START YOUR BALCONY GARDEN

*checklist*

## 1. PLANNING YOUR BALCONY GARDEN

- ☐ Measure the available space on your balcony.
- ☐ Assess sunlight exposure (full sun, partial shade, or shade).
- ☐ Decide on the type of plants to grow (vegetables, herbs, or fruits).
- ☐ Research local climate conditions and select plants suited to your space and light.

## 2. CHOOSING PLANTS FOR SMALL SPACES

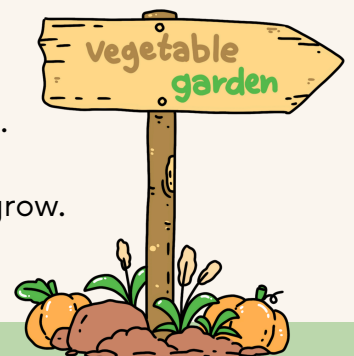
- ☐ Pick 1-2 easy beginner plants, such as:
  - ☐ Lettuce or spinach (great for low sunlight).
  - ☐ Cherry tomatoes (ideal for full sun).
  - ☐ Herbs like basil, rosemary, mint, or thyme.
  - ☐ Radishes (quick-growing and low-maintenance).
  - ☐ Peppers (great for small pots, but grow slowly).

## 3. SETTING UP CONTAINERS

- ☐ Select containers with good drainage holes.
- ☐ Consider different container types:
  - ☐ Terracotta pots for durability.
  - ☐ Fabric pots for breathability.
  - ☐ Plastic pots for lightweight mobility.
- ☐ Use hanging pots or vertical shelves to maximize space.

## 4. SOIL & PLANTING

- ☐ Buy high-quality potting mix (not garden soil) for better drainage.
- ☐ Add organic compost to improve soil quality.
- ☐ Plant your seeds or seedlings, leaving enough space for roots to grow.



## 5. POSITIONING FOR SUNLIGHT

- ☐ Place your containers where they'll get 6-8 hours of sunlight daily.
- ☐ For low-light balconies, choose shade-tolerant plants (e.g., lettuce).
- ☐ Consider grow lights if your balcony receives limited sunlight.

## 6. WATERING & FERTILIZING

- ☐ Water your plants early in the morning or late afternoon to avoid quick evaporation.
- ☐ Check soil moisture daily—water when the top inch of soil feels dry.
- ☐ Fertilize every 4-6 weeks with organic liquid fertilizer or slow-release granules.

## 7. PEST CONTROL & PLANT HEALTH

- ☐ Monitor plants for pests like aphids or spider mites.
- ☐ Use organic pest control methods (e.g., neem oil or insecticidal soap) if needed.
- ☐ Ensure good air circulation between plants to prevent mold and disease.

## 8. HARVESTING & ENJOYING

- ☐ Regularly harvest herbs and vegetables when they're ready to encourage new growth.
- ☐ Enjoy your fresh, homegrown produce!

Notes:

