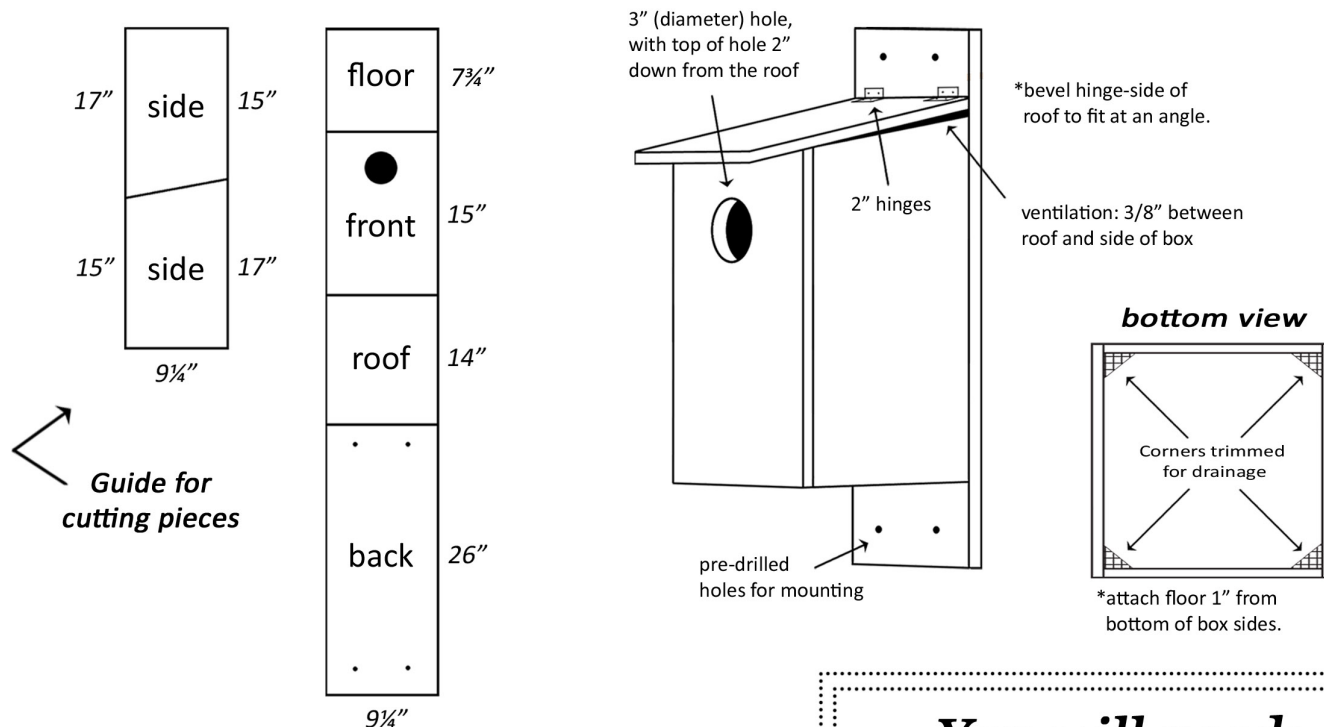


Plans for Installing an American Kestrel Nest Box



Instructions

- Cut lumber using a table saw and entrance hole using a jig saw. Assemble box as shown, with wood screws. Pre-drill holes in back if using 3" screws to mount box.
- Do not use paint or preservatives.
- Place 2" of wood shavings in the bottom of the box for bedding.
- Mount box at least 8 feet off the ground. Space multiple boxes ½ mile apart.
- Install nest box by mid-February, before the breeding season.
- Clean the box, make repairs, and replace wood shavings every January.

You will need:

- 1" x 10" x 8' untreated cedar or white pine (1" x 10" boards from the store actually measure ¾" x 9¼").
- 20-30 galvanized 1½" wood screws.
- Two galvanized 2" hinges.
- Coarse wood shavings (NOT sawdust).
- Materials for mounting the nest box (Four 3" screws or steel straps).

A note on placement: For kestrel parents to find prey around their box, there should be plenty of small rodents or insects nearby. Generally this means low vegetation (lawn grass doesn't count) with a few isolated perches. Avoid wooded areas. Live in a city? No problem! Mount a box on the side of a building. Also be patient, since kestrels don't always move in during the first breeding season.

Isolated trees, wooden poles, barn walls and even low-activity house walls (no doors) are excellent nest box stands. Get permission from your local utility or DOT before mounting boxes on power poles or road signs, and always get permission from public or private property owners before installing boxes.

Safety First! Make sure that nest boxes can be safely accessed for maintenance and monitoring.