

PERMABLITZ



Collaborating to create productive gardens



What better way can there be to make a productive home garden than to build it with friends?

That's the idea behind permablitz. It is a way to help people acquire a garden for growing vegetables and fruit and then to have them help build yours.

Organising a permablitz is straightforward:

- ✿ find a garden that needs work to build or remake it
- ✿ organise a garden team and select a date for the permablitz

- ✿ determine who will supply materials
- ✿ negotiate what is to be done
- ✿ manage work during the permablitz.

Permablitz are usually organised through local permaculture associations. A common arrangement is that people participate in a number of permablitz before they qualify for one.

An established practice

Permablitz is based on mutual assistance. It speeds-up the construction of gardens by doing a lot of work in a single day, work that would take a family or individual much longer if they did it all themselves.

For permaculture practitioners, permablitz is a means of helping implement the third ethic of permaculture—the sharing of resources such as knowledge, skills and human energy. It is also a means of implementing the permaculture principle of cooperation rather than competition.

More than this, permablitz is a convivial and fun way to spend the day in the company of others while creating something worthwhile.



PERMACULTURE TASMANIA

Planning a PERMABLITZ a simple project plan

1 INFORMATION

The first stage of permablitz is to learn about the site where the garden will be built or rehabilitated.

Once participants are on site, do a participatory **site analysis** so that all learn the process. Identify how sun and shade move across the site through the seasons, the direction and seasons of strong and damaging winds, how rainfall runoff flows through the site and where it pools, the types of soils on the site and other information that tells us about the site and what will influence the garden we are to build there.

If you choose not to do a participatory site analysis, do one first and then explain it at the start of the permablitz so that participants understand why and how components are to be placed in design in relation to site conditions.

2 CLEAR INTENT

Before the permablitz, conduct a **needs analysis** to identify what the garden owners needs are for the site.

Negotiate what the permablitz will provide. Along with your site analysis, this forms the basis of your plan.

3 APPROPRIATE MEANS

How will we implement the permablitz so that it will eventually meet the garden owners needs?

Plan and prepare how we will conduct the permablitz.

Have everything needed on site ready to start. Draw up a list of needs, materials and quantities of materials (compost, soils etc).

Supply:

- the tools we will need
- other equipment
- people to instruct participants if needed
- food
- water
- sun cream
- first aid kit.

5 EXIT STRATEGY

These activities are included in your works plan to properly complete the permablitz:

- **Final site inspection** by the permablitz organisers—is the work finished to a high standard? is the site being left in a tidy and safe condition?
- **inspect finished work** with gardeners who will use the garden
- site clean-up when work is finished
- **review of the permablitz** with the assembled permablitz crew: what did we accomplish? thank participants
- check whether permablitzers need transport—car pool, let them know of nearby public transport
- loading of tools and equipment into vehicles
- check that all have left the site if it is to be closed.

HANDOVER

Will the gardeners know how to manage the things installed during the permablitz? Will a return visit to monitor the works be advisable?

4 CLEAR PLAN OF ACTION

Develop a **works plan** for the permablitz.

Work out a sequence for the day:

- what has to be done first?
- what next?
- what things can be done at the same time?
- start and finish times?
- site clean-up
- draw this up onto a large sheet of paper that will be put on display at the permablitz.

Start the permablitz by having participants introduce themselves. Then brief participants about what is to be accomplished, break times and site safety including hazards on site, tool and equipment use, hydration and sun protection.

See exit strategy for finishing-up activities.

“ A Permablitz is an informal gathering where a group of people come together to create or enhance edible gardens, share skills related to permaculture, build community and have fun. Each event is based on a permaculture design and is open to everyone. Permablitz promotes teamwork and reciprocity.

Find out more

- ⌘ [All Hands on Deck](#) — ABC Gardening Australia's background to the Permablitz; video link below
- ⌘ Permablitz — a volunteer fuelled backyard working bee, [ABC Gardening Australia Youtube](#)
- ⌘ Melbourne Permablitz website — <https://www.permablitz.net>
- ⌘ Guides for designers, facilitators, permablitz hosts, photographers and reporters at <https://www.permablitz.net/guides/>

PERMACULTURE TASMANIA

...is a member-based, volunteer-managed association bringing together Tasmanians practicing permaculture in their homes and communities.

Permaculture is a platform of practical ideas and techniques through which individuals and communities can build resilience to the many global and local pressures we are facing.

The challenges may be global. Permaculture's solutions are local.



OUR WEBSITE

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