

What is a Vertical Oyster Garden, and why?

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Why should you care?

Oysters are a vital part of the ocean ecosystem. One adult oyster can filter up to fifty gallons of saltwater per day. This filtering power of the oyster has been on a downhill trend throughout the past one hundred years. This is due to the building of sea walls restricting the oyster's ability to grow, over hunting for consumption, and general disdain by homeowners who do not want oysters on their property.

With a vertical oyster garden, after six months in the water, twenty empty oyster shells become 170 fully flourishing oysters, with barnacles and muscles and crabs all living through it. This single V.O.G can filter up to 8,500 gallons per day, and that is not even considering the other positives of making a whole mini ecosystem. Each of these V.O.G's is so simple to make and install.



How are they made?

Vertical oyster gardens are quite simple. You drill a hole into twenty oyster shells, Dry and EMPTY oyster shells. Then you string them using coconut fiber rope and tie off both ends. To hang them in the water, make sure they end up in the inter-tidal zone, this means it is out of the water at low tide and in the water at high tide. The V.O.G needs to be in the lower part of this zone, as to not be out of the water for too long. Then, you just hang it however you like, you can get a screw into your dock and hang it, or you can hang it off your dock by threading it through the boards.

How can you help?

You can follow this youtube video and set one up yourself!

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