

Minecraft Play: Mining and Crafting for Better Living

Every block, or material, that's mined in the game has a hardness level that determines which tool is best for breaking it. You can break most blocks by hand, without any tools, but using the right tool will save you lots of time. The general rules of thumb for using tools are shown at right.

Every player starts out with nothing in his or her inventory. The objective is to collect resources to craft a full set of tools so you can mine harder blocks to craft even stronger tools. Once you've collected some blocks, craft new tools and resources to make play even better. Grab a tool and start breaking blocks!

GAME MODE

Survival

APPROXIMATE TIME TO COMPLETE

1+ hours in Minecraft

PLATFORMS

PC/Mac, Consoles, Pocket Edition (PE)

1. When you first enter the game, you'll start at spawn point. Look around to see what types of resources are nearby. Start mining by punching trees to gather wood.
2. Turn the wood you've gathered into a crafting table, which allows you to craft all the tools available in the game (fig. 1). Without a crafting table, you're limited to crafting very few items. It's helpful to have multiple crafting tables. Put one in your house, one in your mineshaft (where the player mines underground for more resources), and one where you're harvesting trees. Start using your crafting table by turning your wood into tools (fig. 2).
3. Build a shelter. Your shelter could be on top of a hill made from dirt or inside a mountain surrounded by stone blocks. If you're playing in survival mode, the goal is to build a shelter to protect you from monsters.

TOOLS CHEAT SHEET



Axes: for mining and crafting anything made from wood



Pickaxes: for mining and crafting stone or harder materials



Shovels: for mining and crafting dirt



Hoes: for preparing the ground for planting



Weapons (such as swords): for killing mobs and animals

HARDNESS

HANDS
(NO TOOLS)

WOOD

STONE

IRON

GOLD

DIAMOND

The harder the material a tool is made from, the faster it will break blocks.

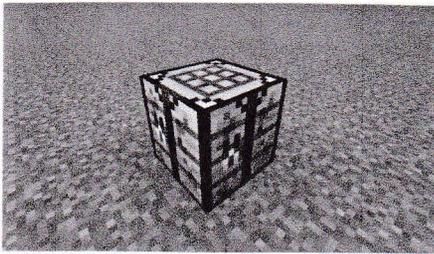


Fig. 1: Use the wood you've mined to create a crafting table.

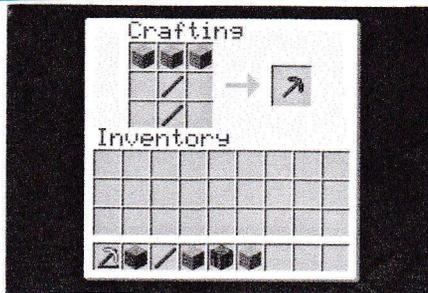


Fig. 2: Use your crafting table and some wood to craft new tools, like the wooden pickaxe shown.

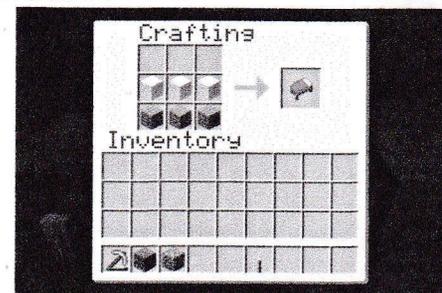


Fig. 3: Build a bed using three blocks of wool and three wood planks.

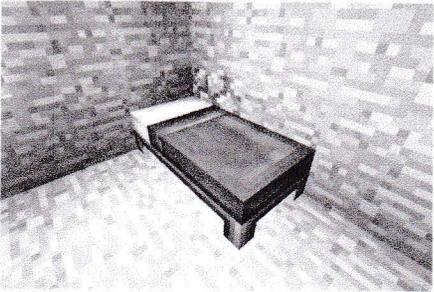


Fig. 4: Place the bed in a safe place, such as inside your shelter.

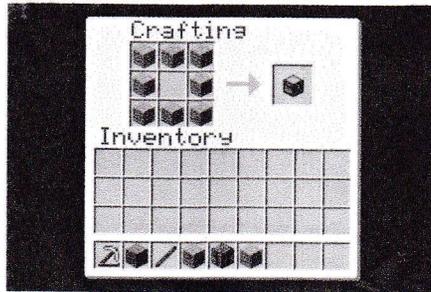


Fig. 5: The crafting recipe for a chest.

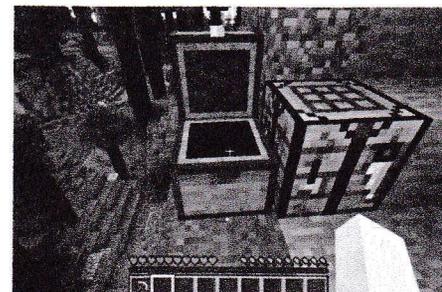


Fig. 6: Chests are a great place to store extra resources.

4. Craft a bed, if possible. You'll need three blocks of wool ("mined" from sheep) of any color and three wood planks (fig. 3). Place the bed in a safe place, preferably inside a home (fig. 4). You can break the bed and take it with you when exploring further from home. If you don't make a bed, you can either hide out in your shelter or keep mining and fight any monsters that come your way.

5. Crafting a chest (fig. 5) is a great way to keep extra items (fig. 6). Ask your co-player whether crafting a chest is necessary. (In survival mode, players must craft all their resources; if they die, players lose all items in their inventory—unless they have placed them in the chest. In creative mode, players don't need chests, as you can't die and always have access to unlimited items.) Placing two chests next to each other creates one large chest.

MORE TO EXPLORE

Minecraft was originally called Cave Game. Markus Persson, also known as Notch, started the game with the simple premise of mining to craft. The version you'll play today has more tools, blocks, and resources than any previous version.