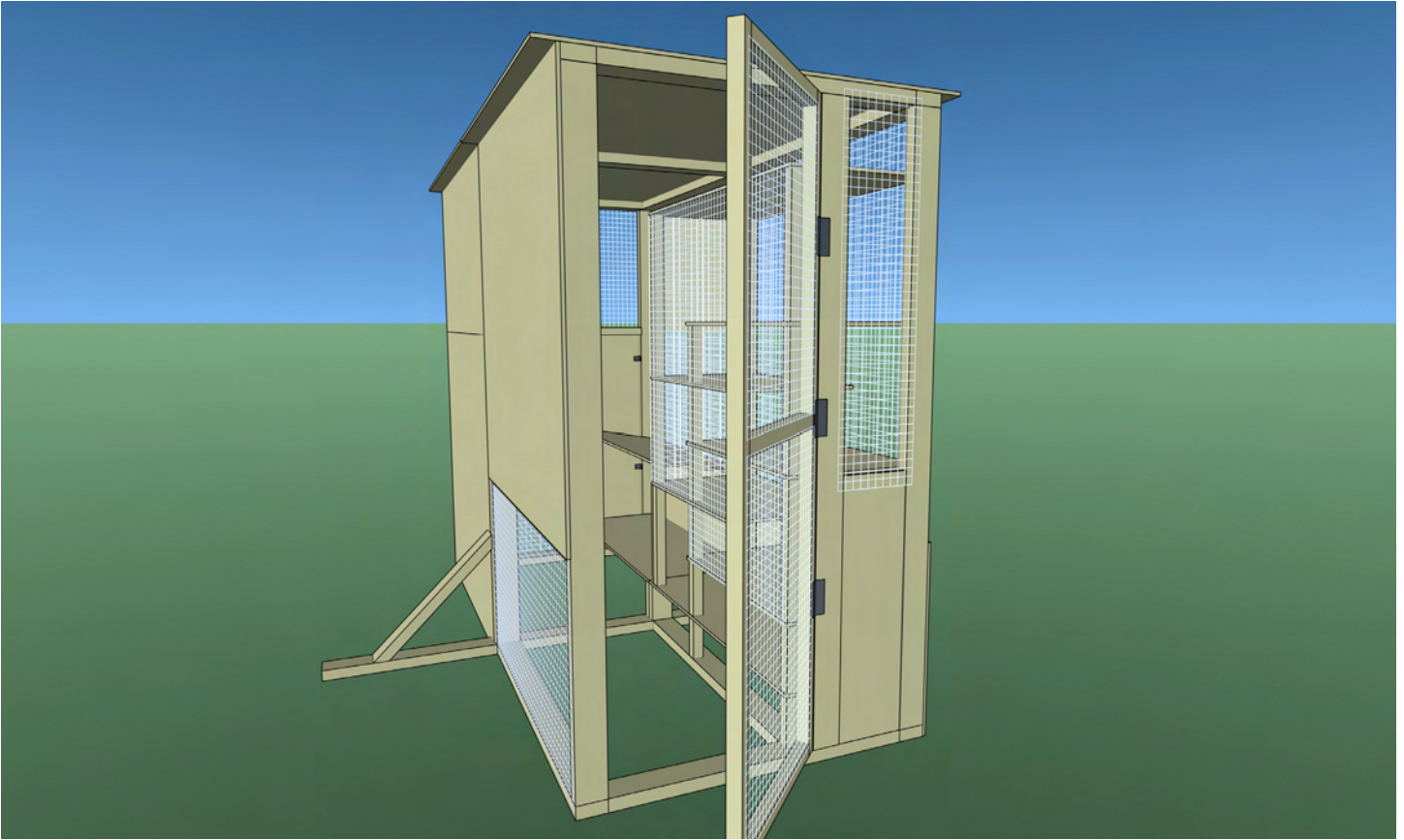


Rabbit Enclosure

V. 1.1



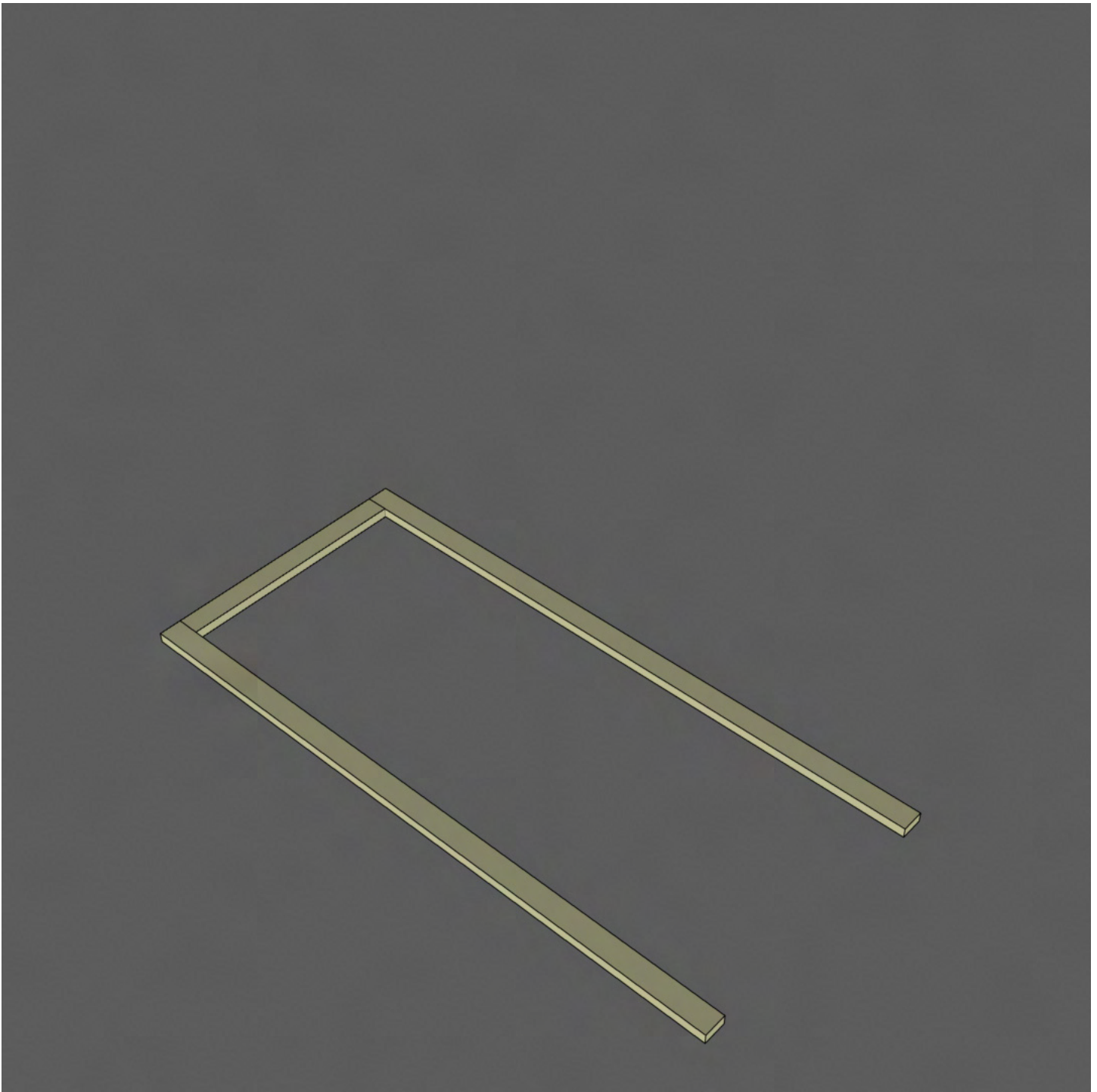
This enclosure design is intended for temperate/moderate climates and is not for very hot or very cold weather conditions.

The design attempts to address rainy conditions with an emphasis on shielding the eating area to avoid food spoilage.

Access is also a key element -- hence the approximately six foot clearance height and the use of a two-foot-wide entry with human-access door.

Paneling should offer adequate shade from direct sunlight as well as shielding from wind and rain.

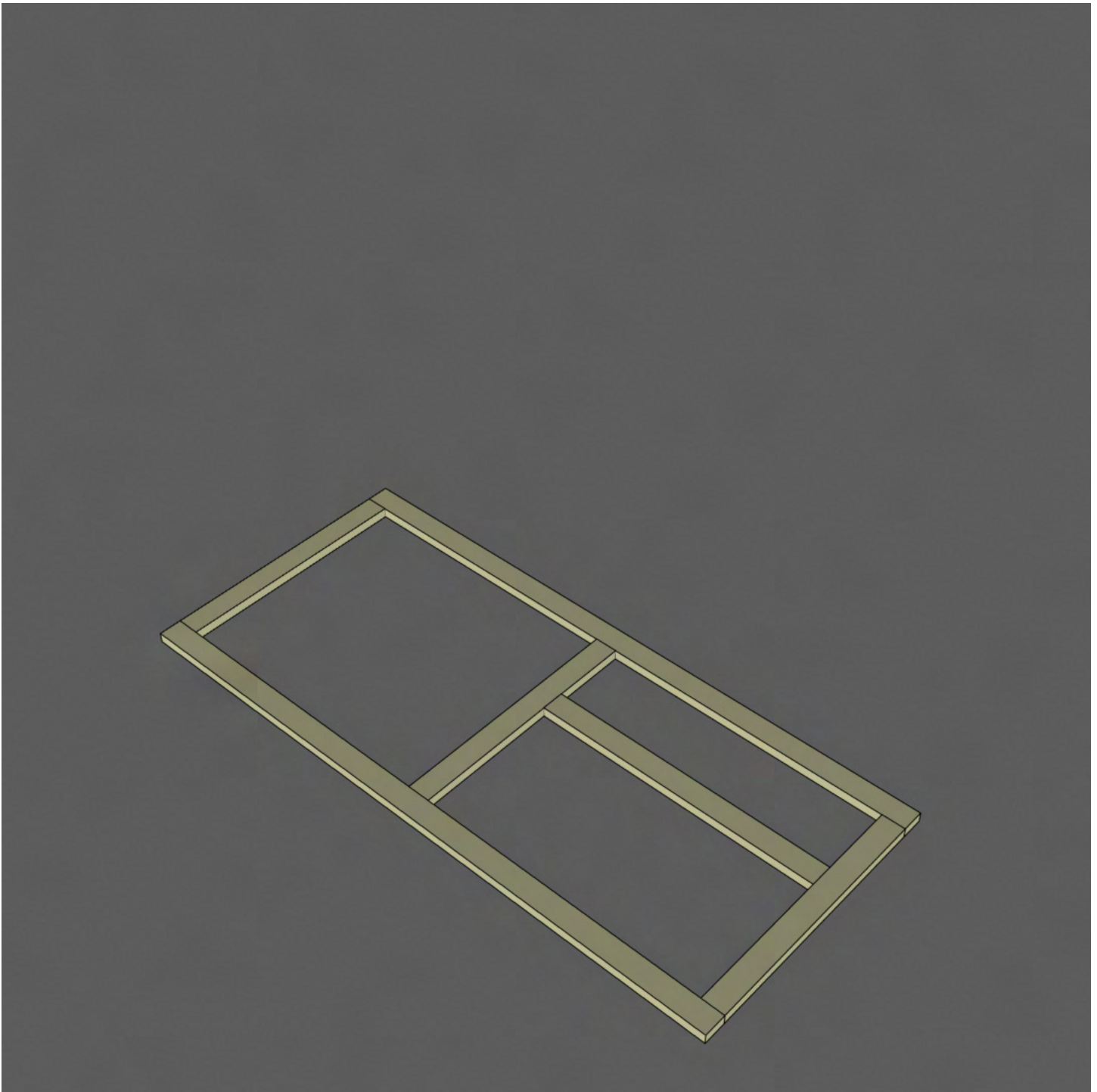
Special heating for water will be required if temperatures are expected to approach freezing -- as should additional measures be taken for cooler climates.



The longer two-by-four boards are stock lengths that you can find at a hardware store (8 feet). Hence no cutting required. This is followed by placing a 3' board between them.

Fastening could be toe nailed (or screws), pocket holes (or not), and/or metal plates or fasteners for extra strength. Feel free to use the fastening techniques that you think are appropriate for each section of the structure.

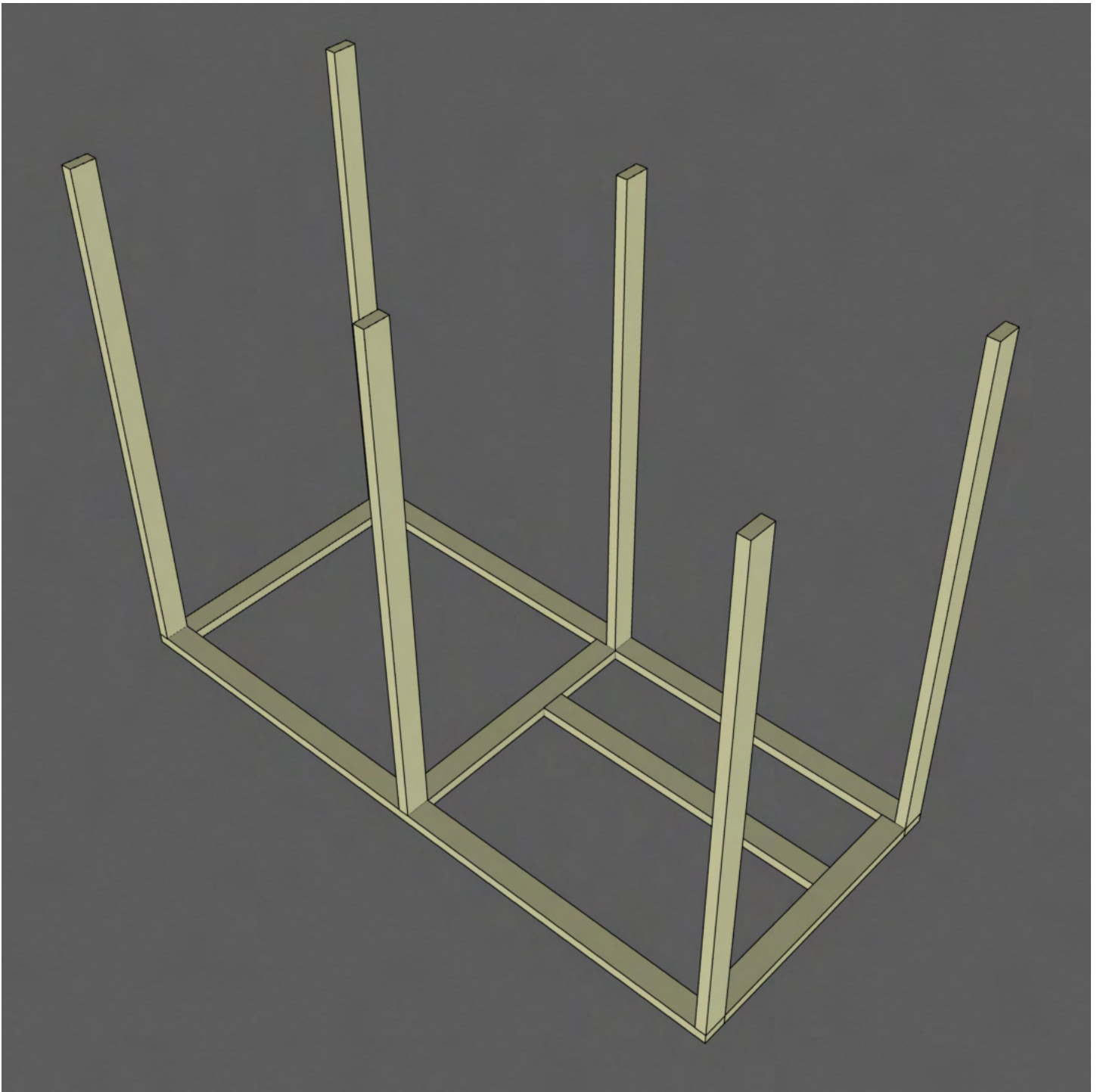
Note: Actual short cross-sectional dimensions of modern two-by-four boards are 1.5" x 3.5".



Two more 3' two-by-fours are added (one at center and the other on the opposite end).

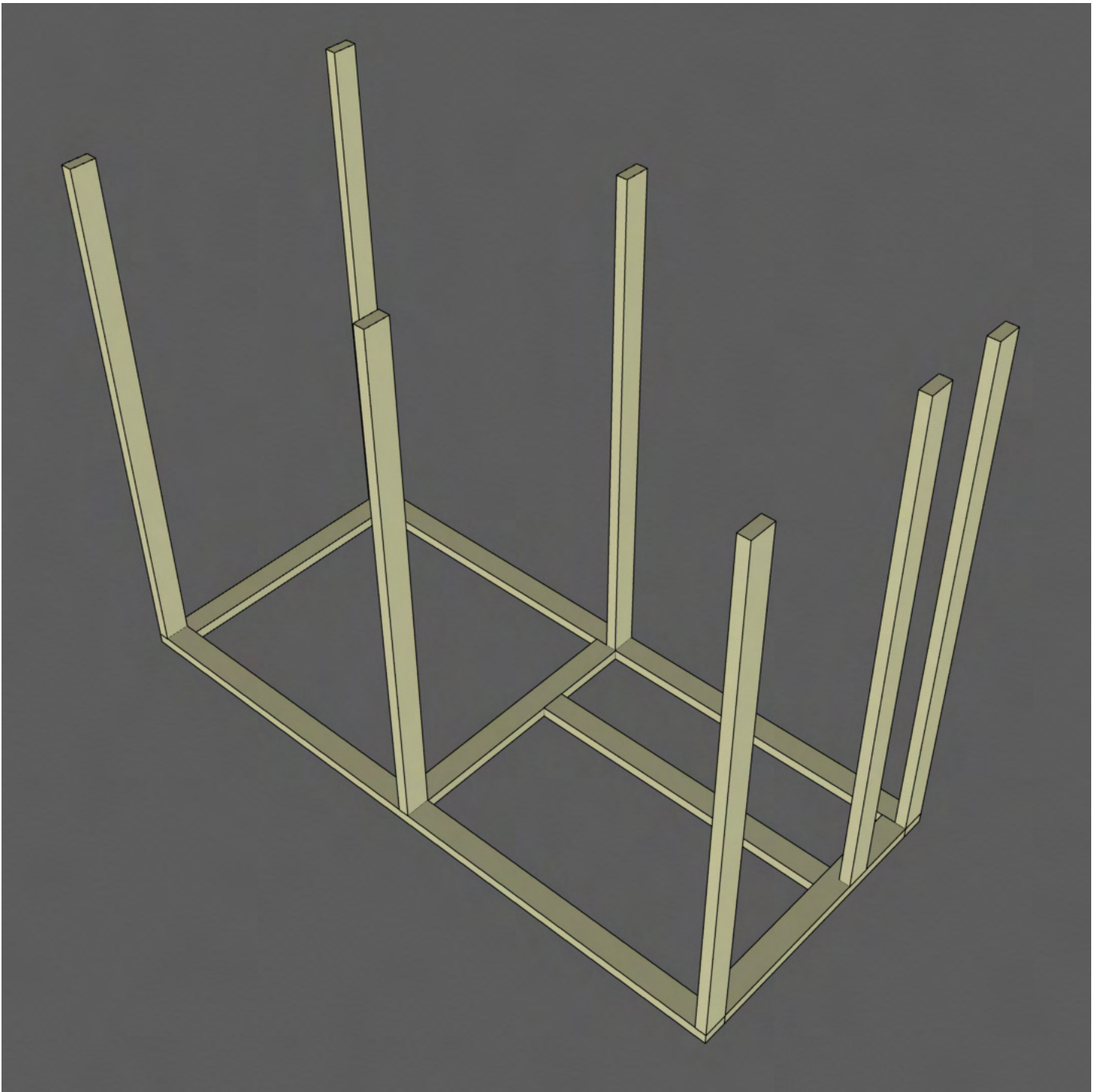
An additional two-by-four is added in parallel to the longer boards. This will be used later as a foundation for the legs of a 'bunny tower'.

If digging is an issue, wire mesh can be added to the underside of this frame and then the assembly can be flipped over to match what's shown in this image.



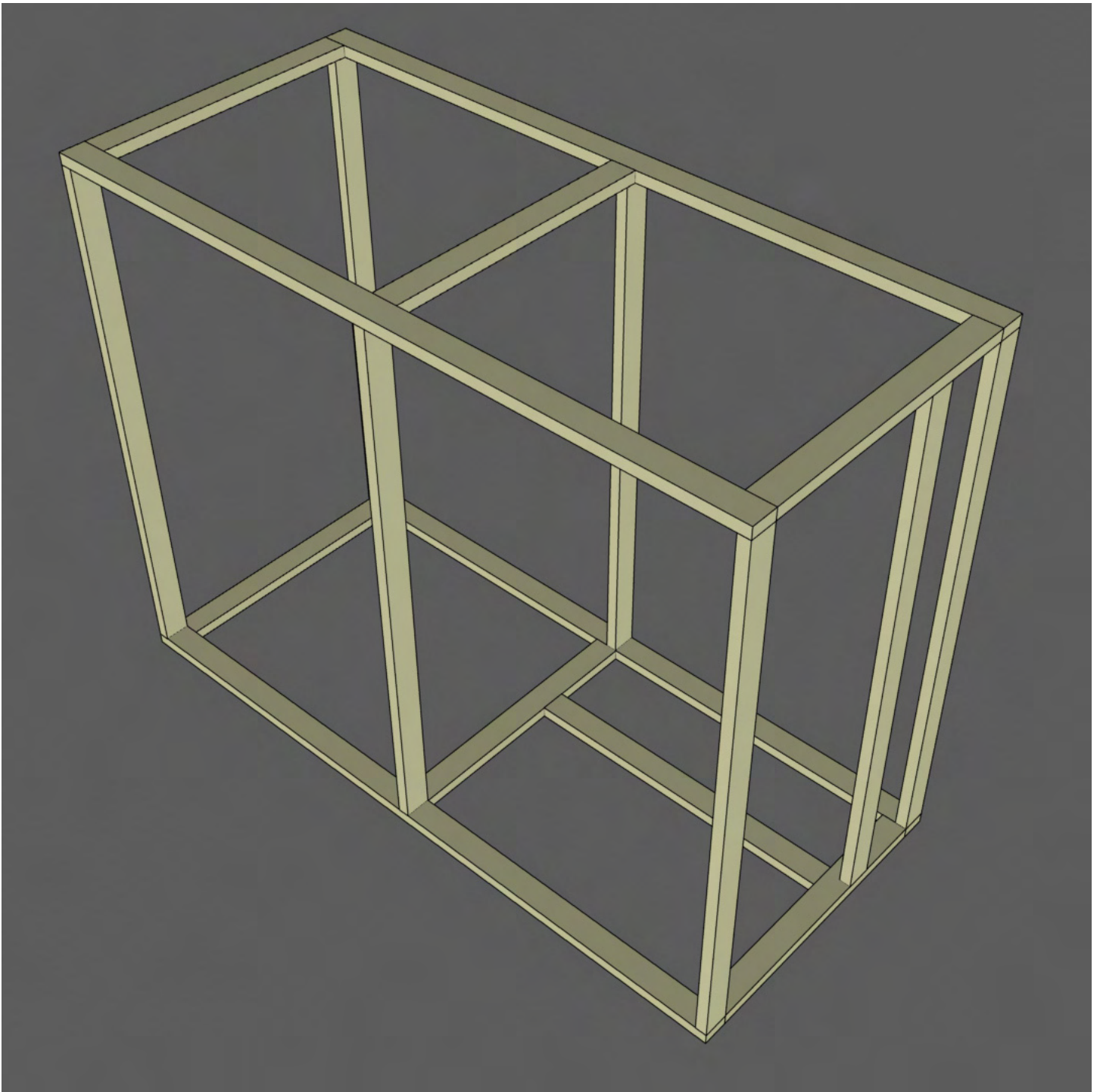
The standing two-by-fours are 6' each. Again, a size that's available off the shelf (so no cutting required).

Note the exact placement of the vertical boards on the horizontal boards. This is very specific and will be important later.

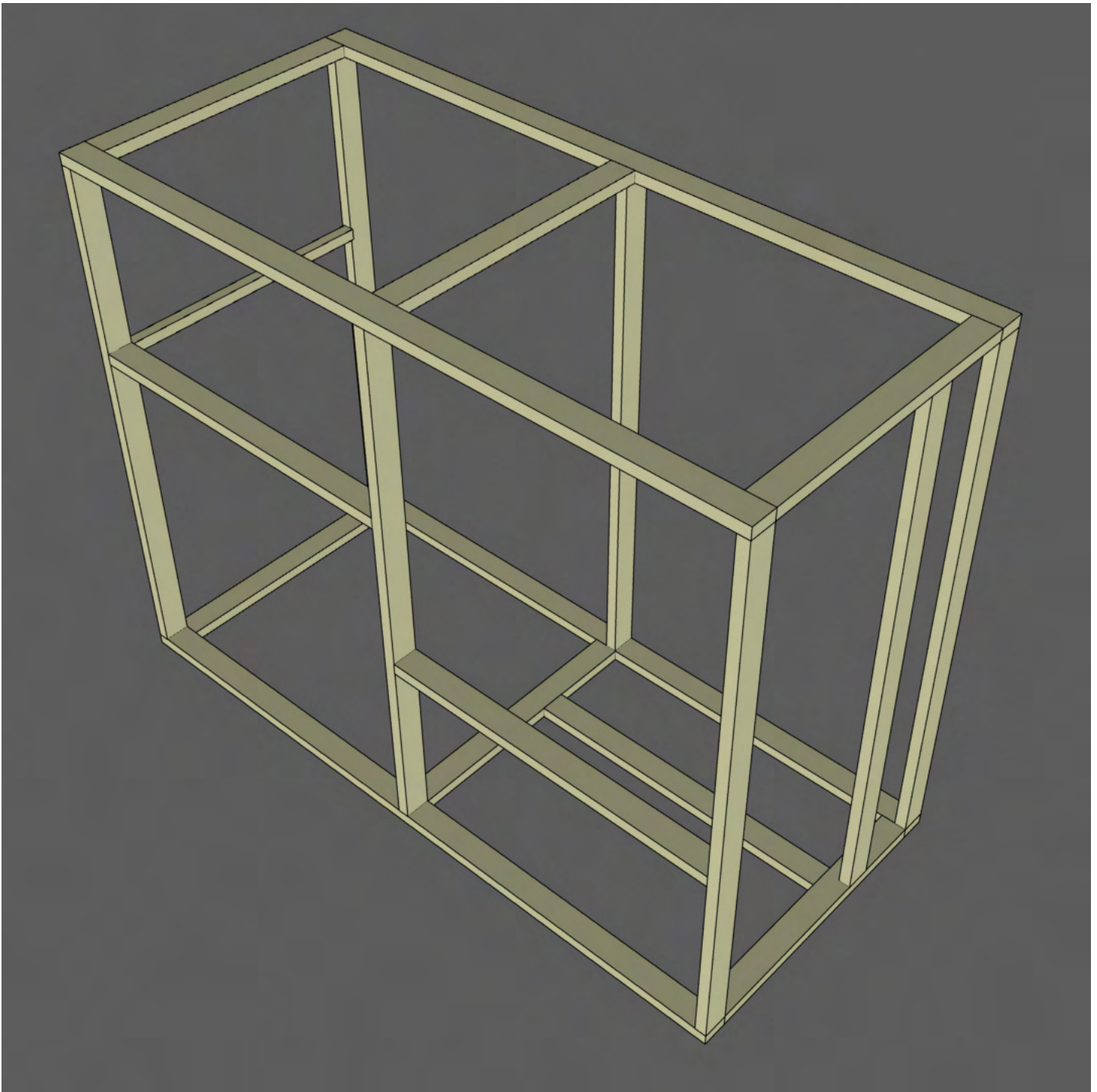


The additional vertical two-by-four at the front is the other side of what will be the door frame.

A width of two feet is reserved for the doorway.



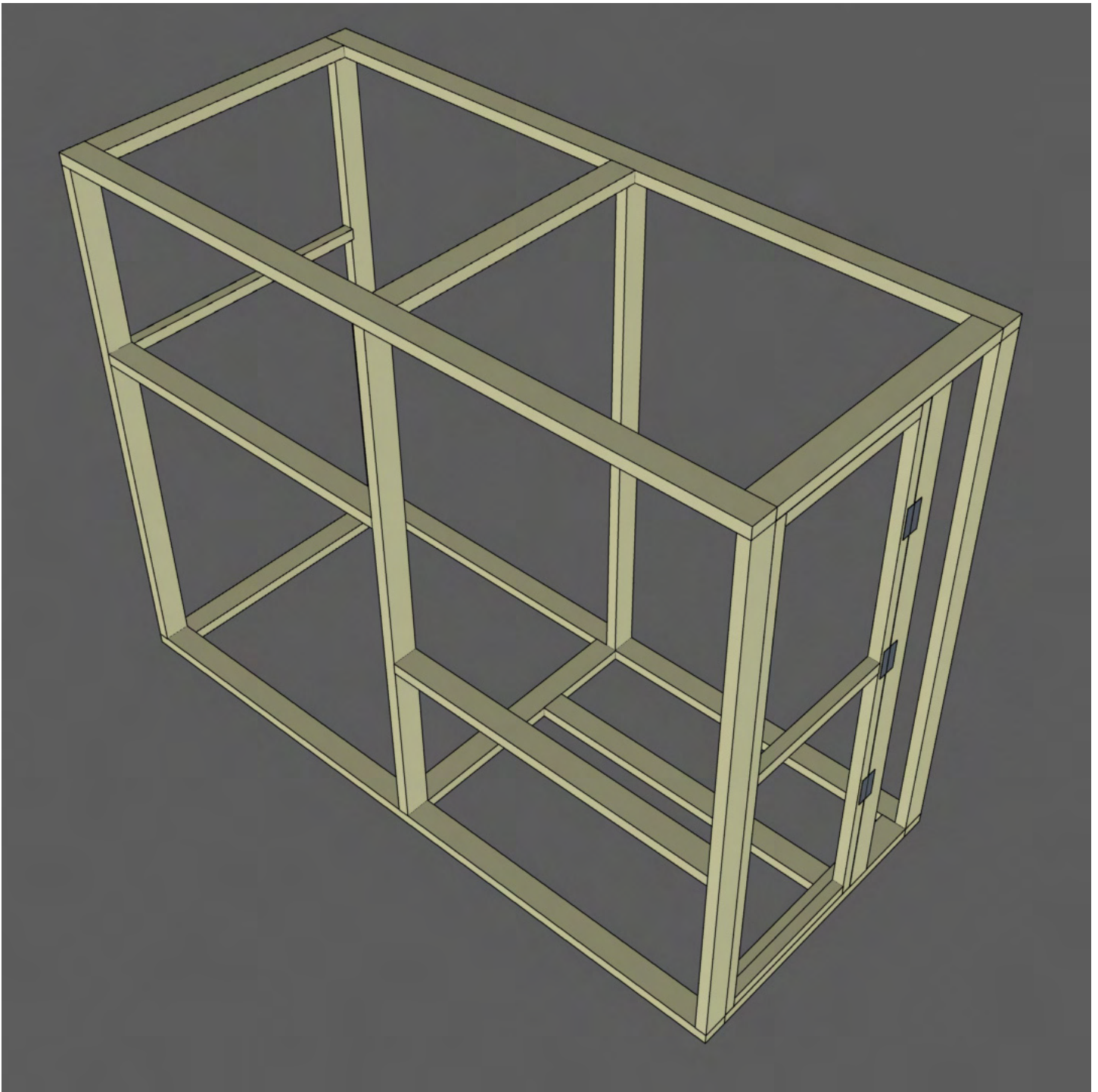
The top two-by-fours complete the basic 'cage' of the structure.



Three additional boards are added horizontally (one at the back and two on the side).

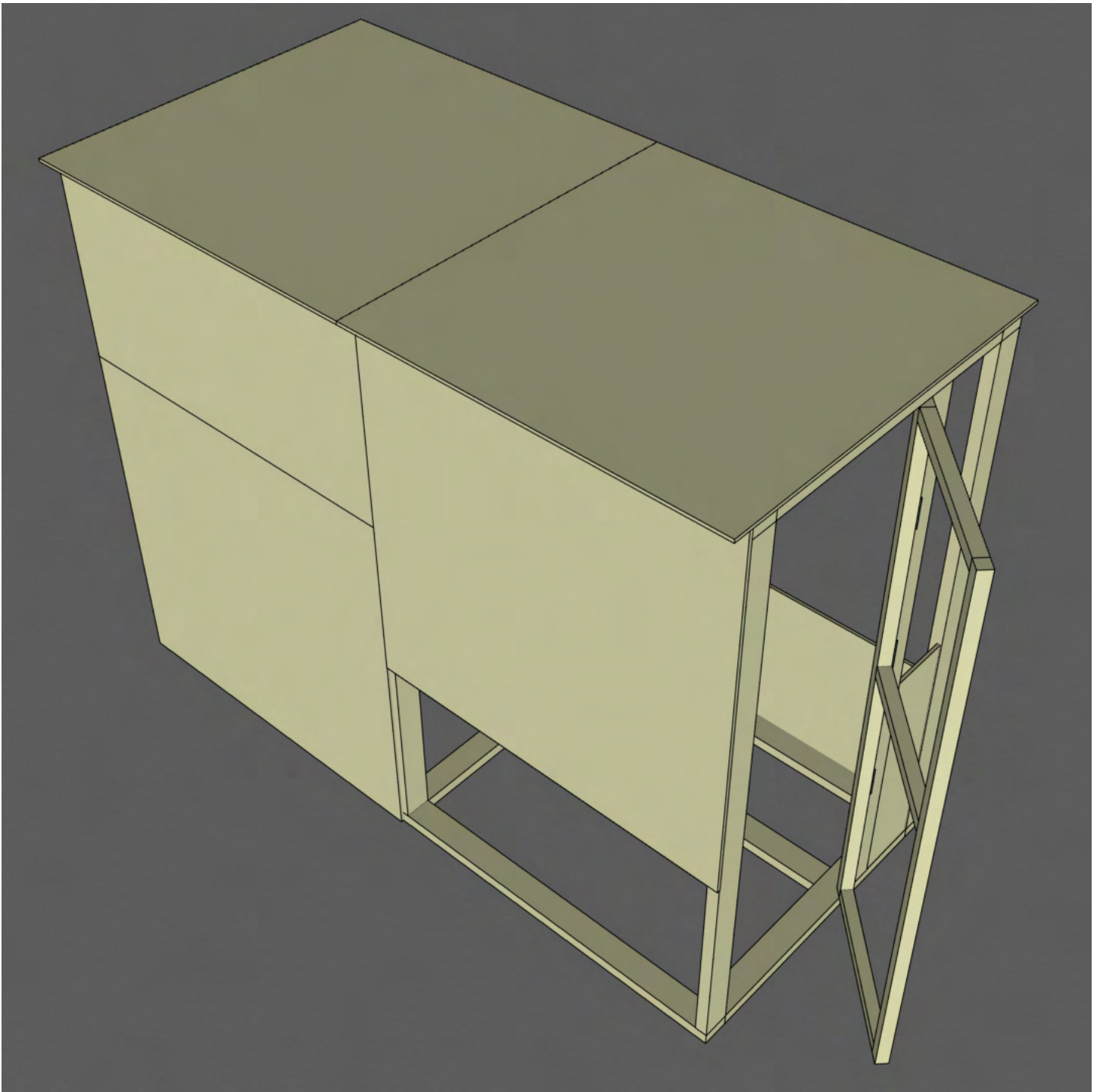
These horizontal boards will provide a base for panels and wire mesh to attach to.

The boards on the long side are two-by-fours. The horizontal board on the short side is a two-by-two.

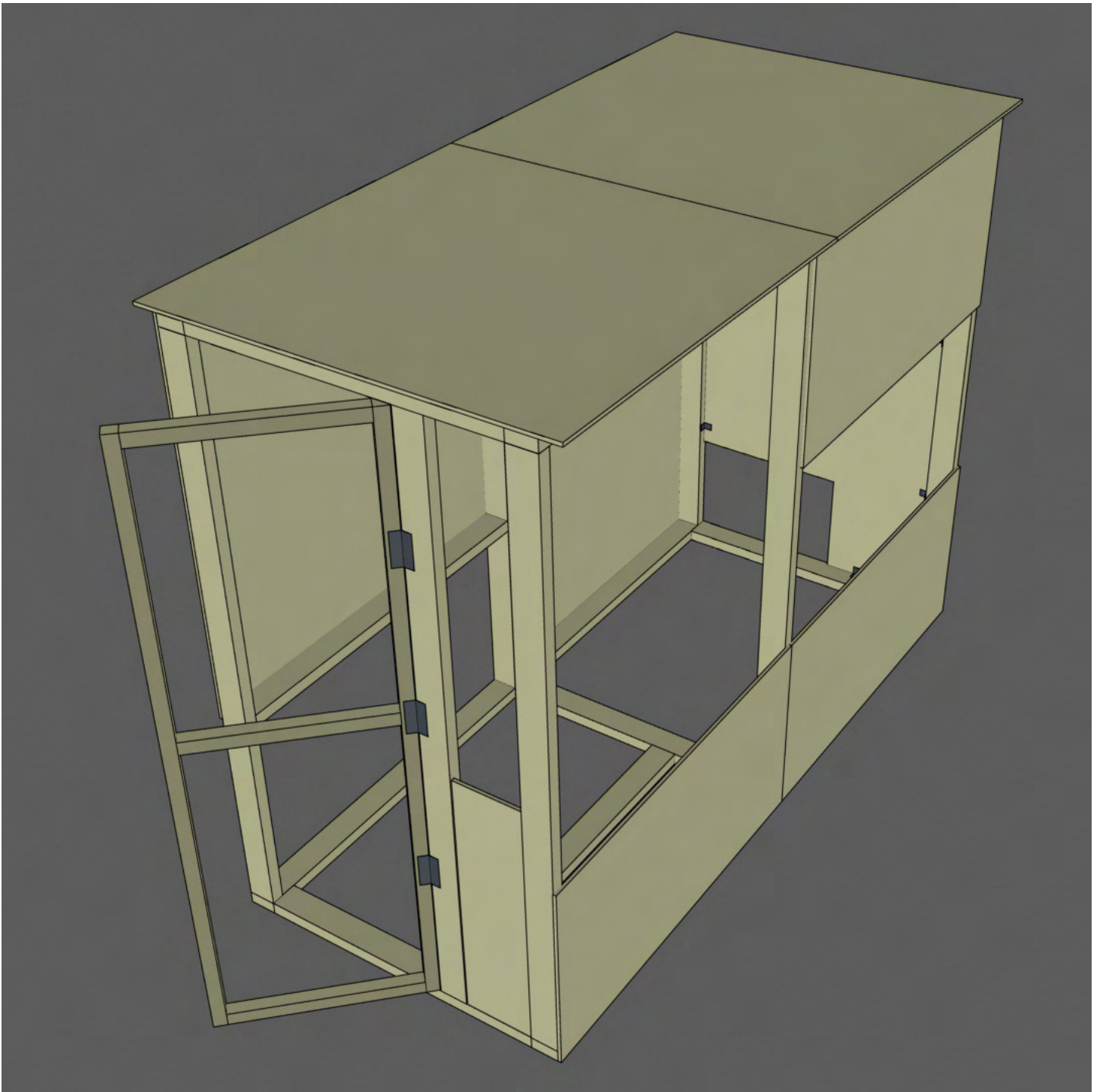


The door is made out of two-by-two boards. Hinges are shown in this image.

Door perimeter is slightly less than 2' x 6' to allow for proper fit to door frame.



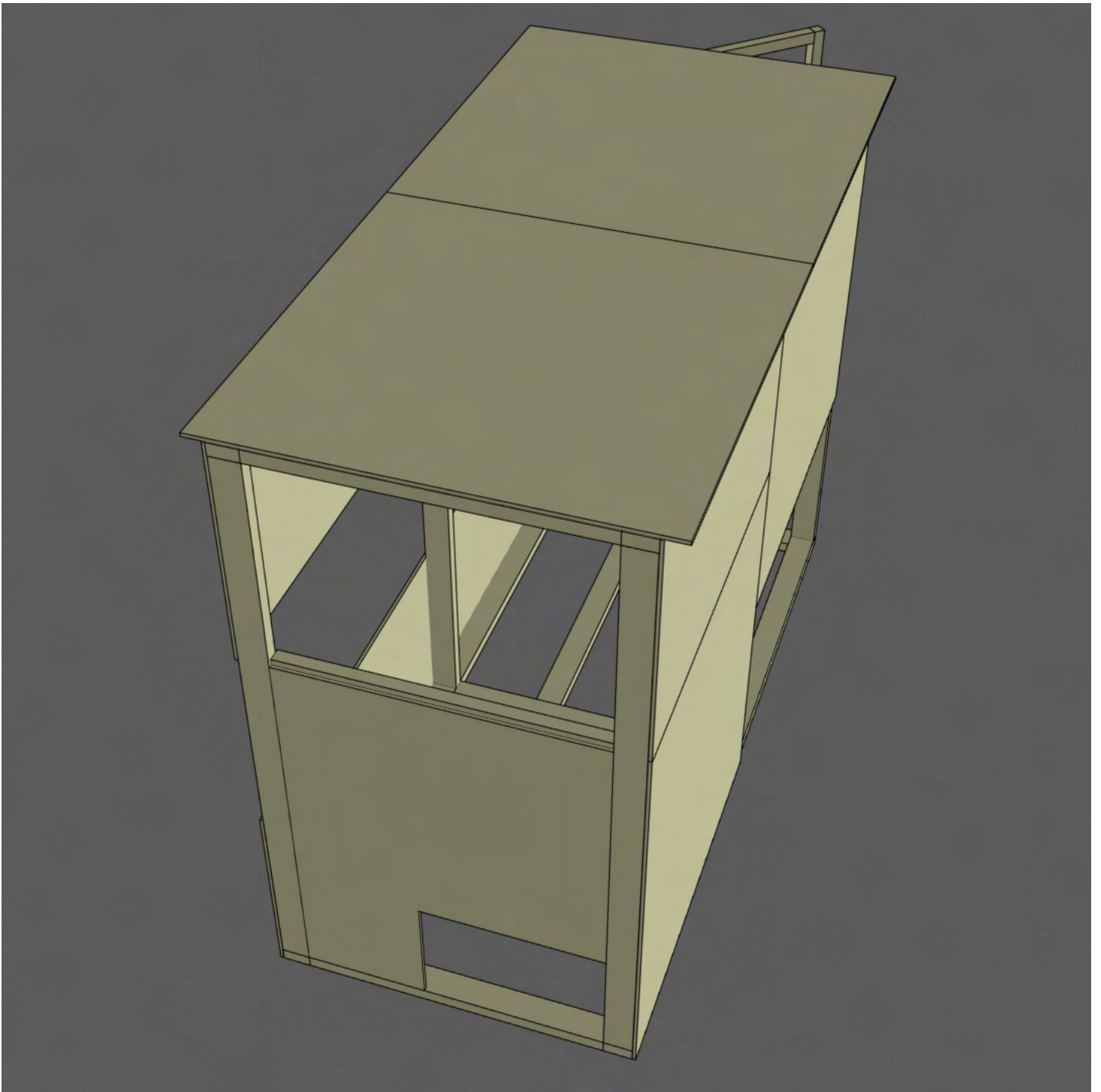
The largest panels, including those on the top, are 4'x4' (another standard off-the-shelf size).



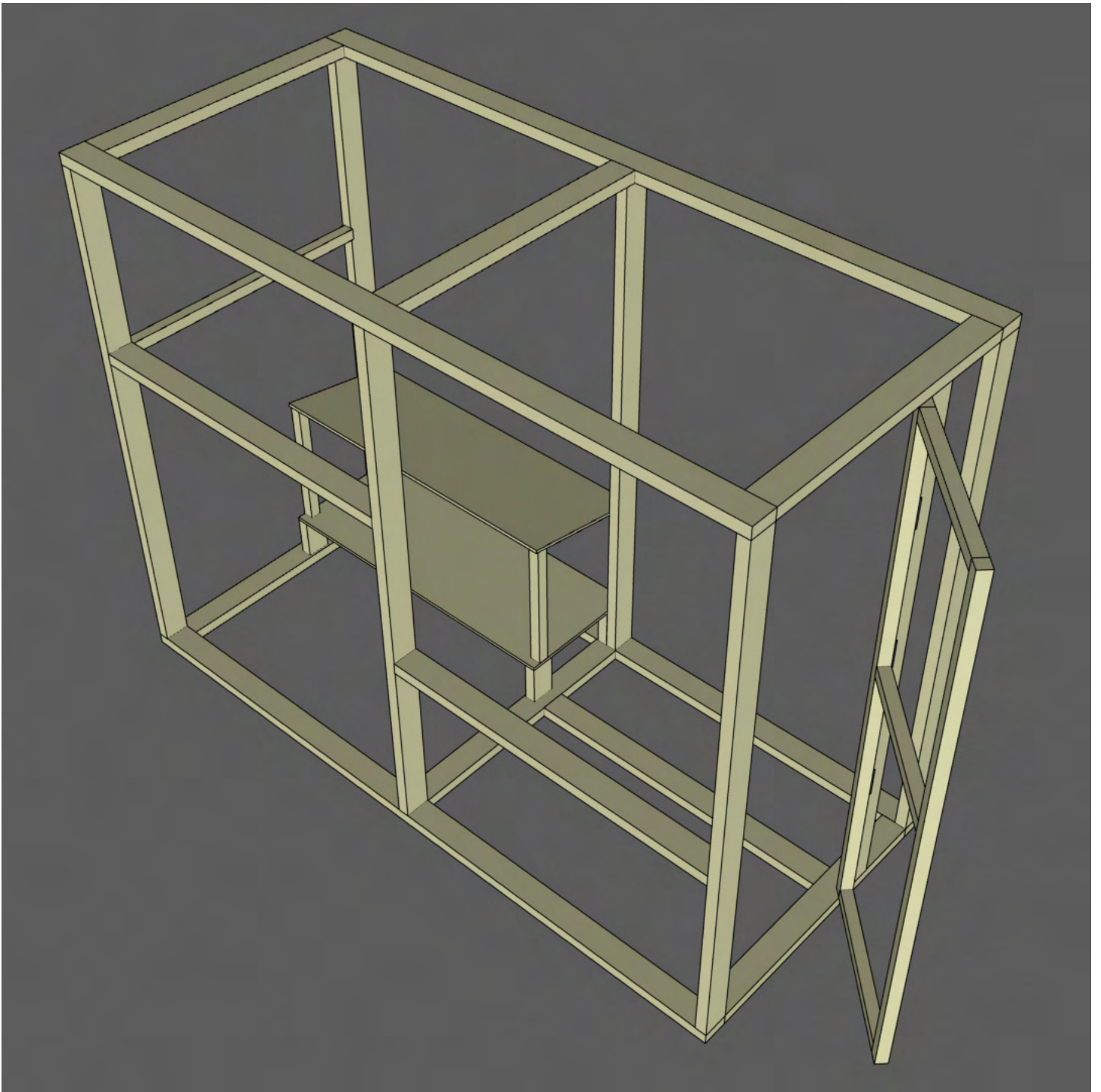
Another view of the panel placement.

The lower two panels are each 4' wide and 2' tall.

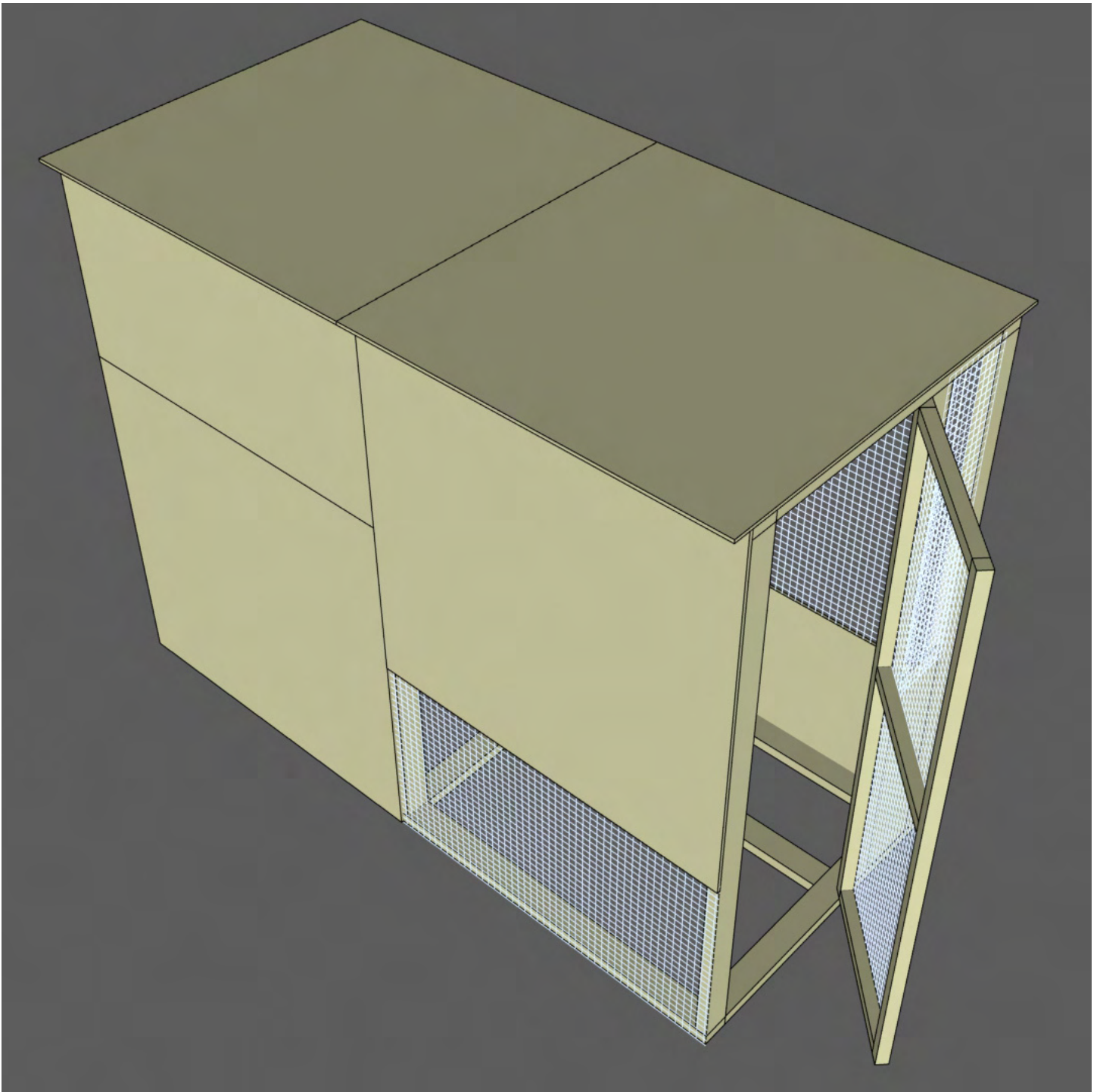
Additional panels might be needed for regions that suffer from driving rain.



Additional view of the panel placement.

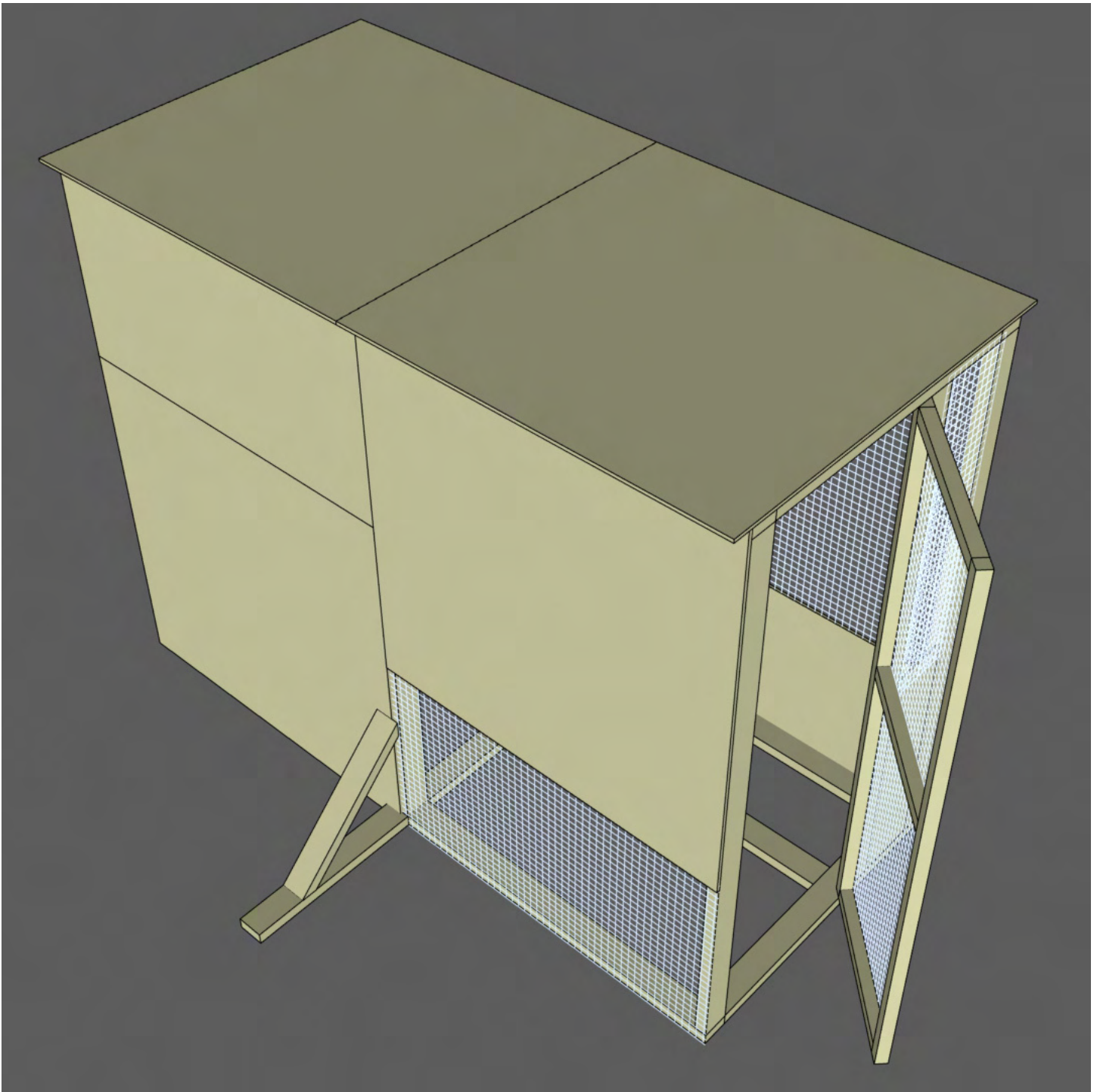


A 'food station' is shown here and will be detailed later in this document.

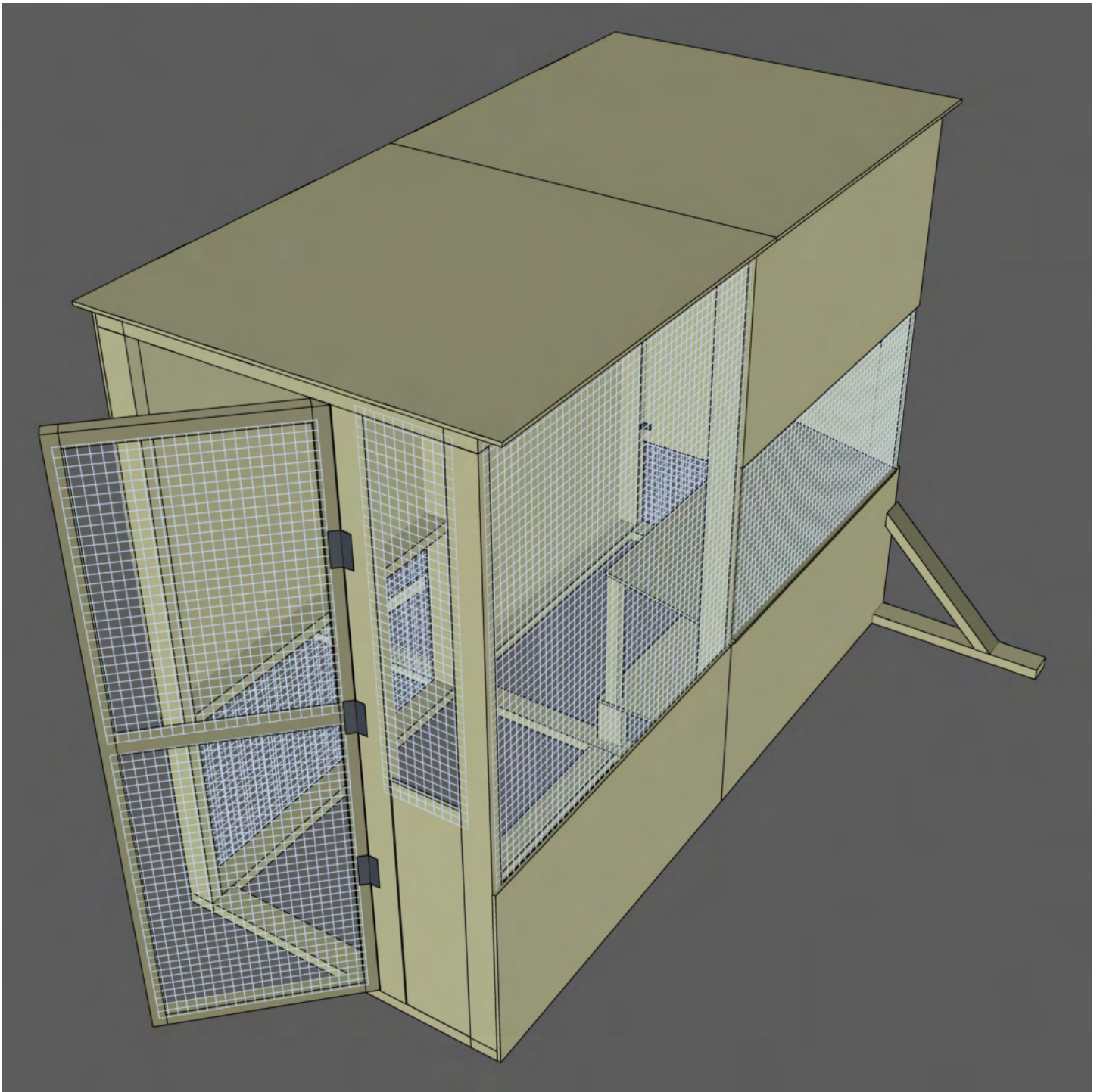


This is a preview of where the wire mesh would be placed. More views of mesh placement to follow.

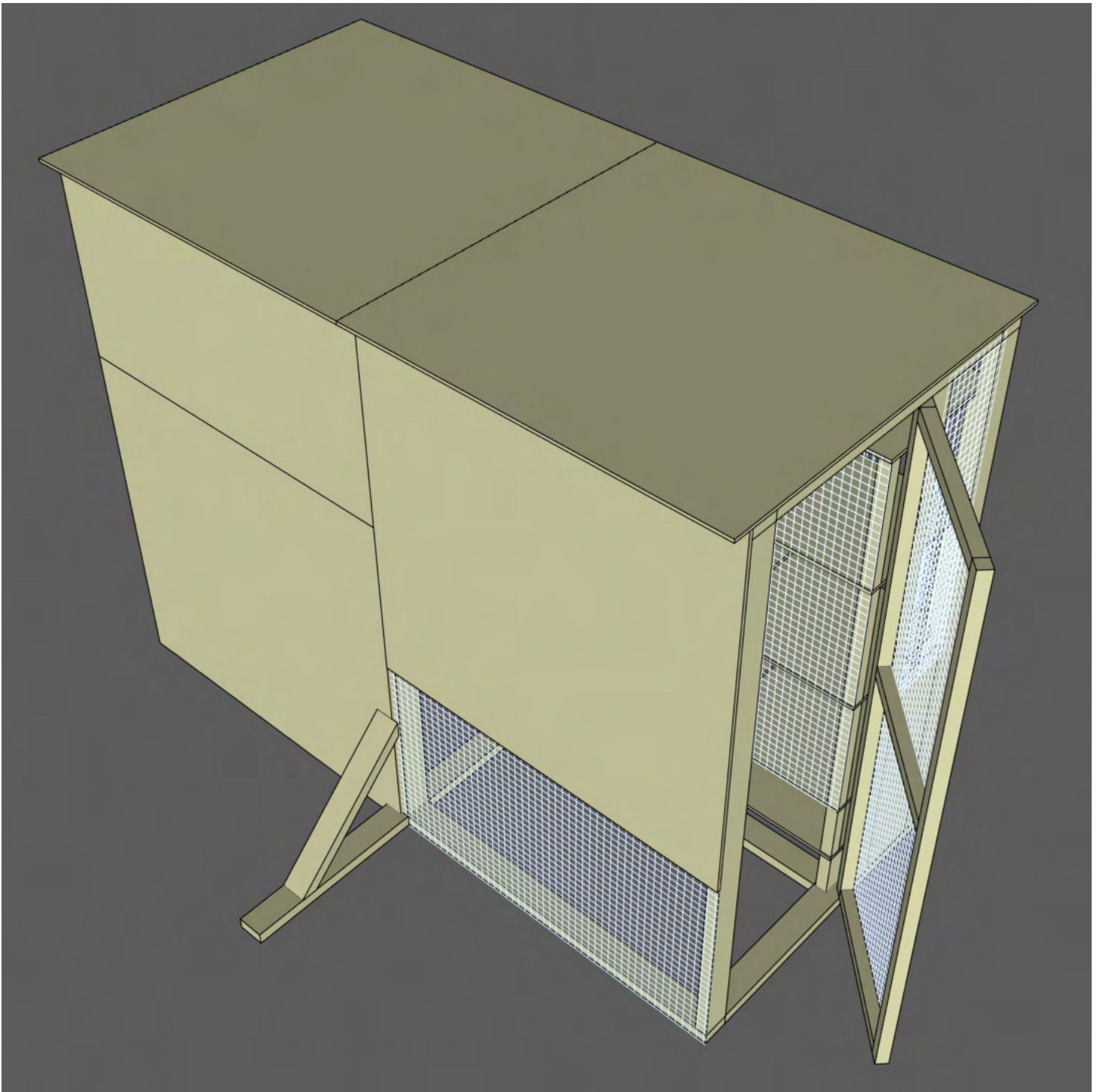
Additional structure (likely using two-by-two boards) may or may not be needed to provide wire mesh with more anchor points.



Two support ‘feet’ are added (one on each long side) to guard against tipping. These are 2’ long each and are braced using a 45-degree two-by-four. They are affixed using nails or screws through the panel and into the standing two-by-four beyond.

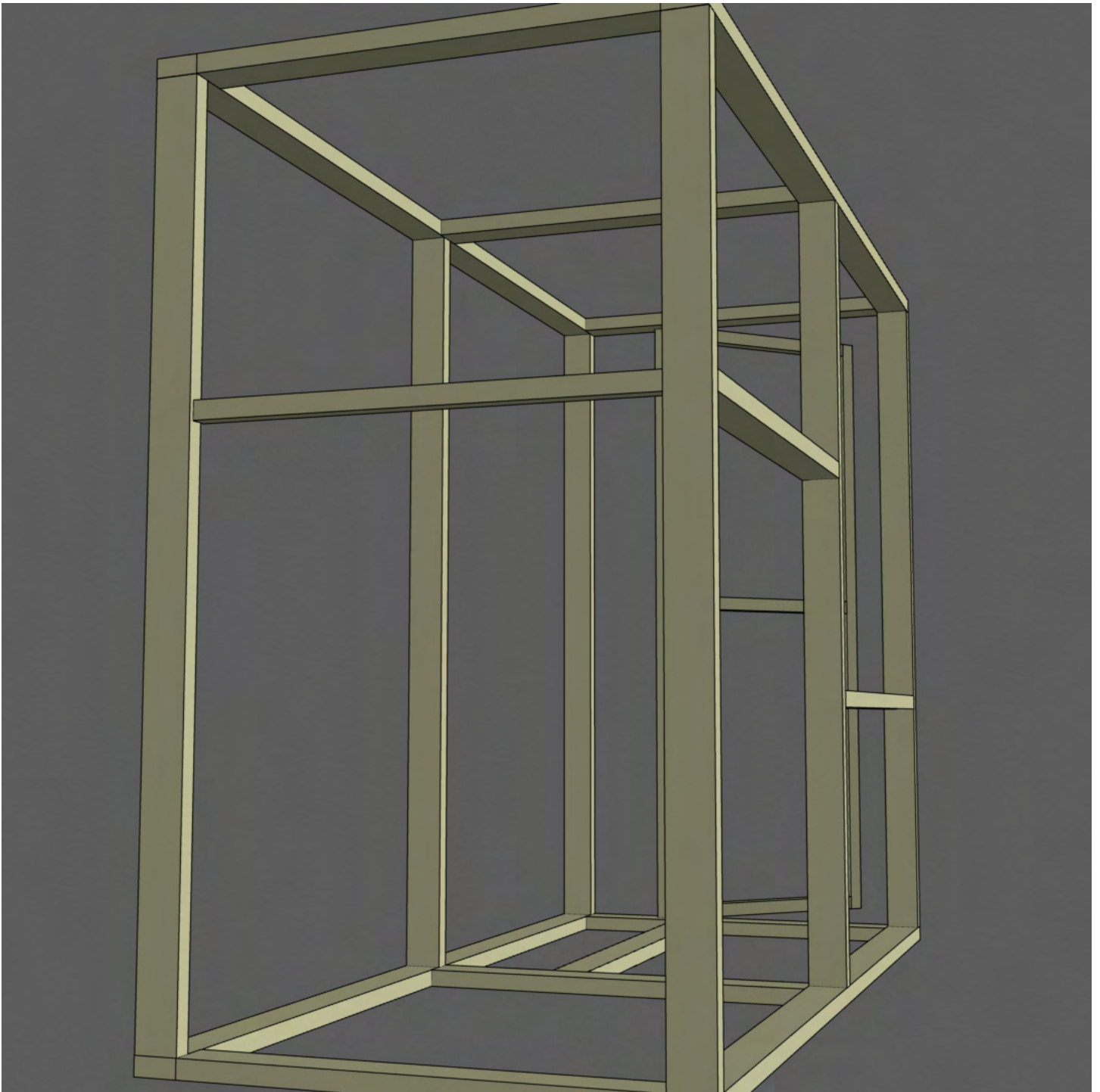


View of the opposite support foot.

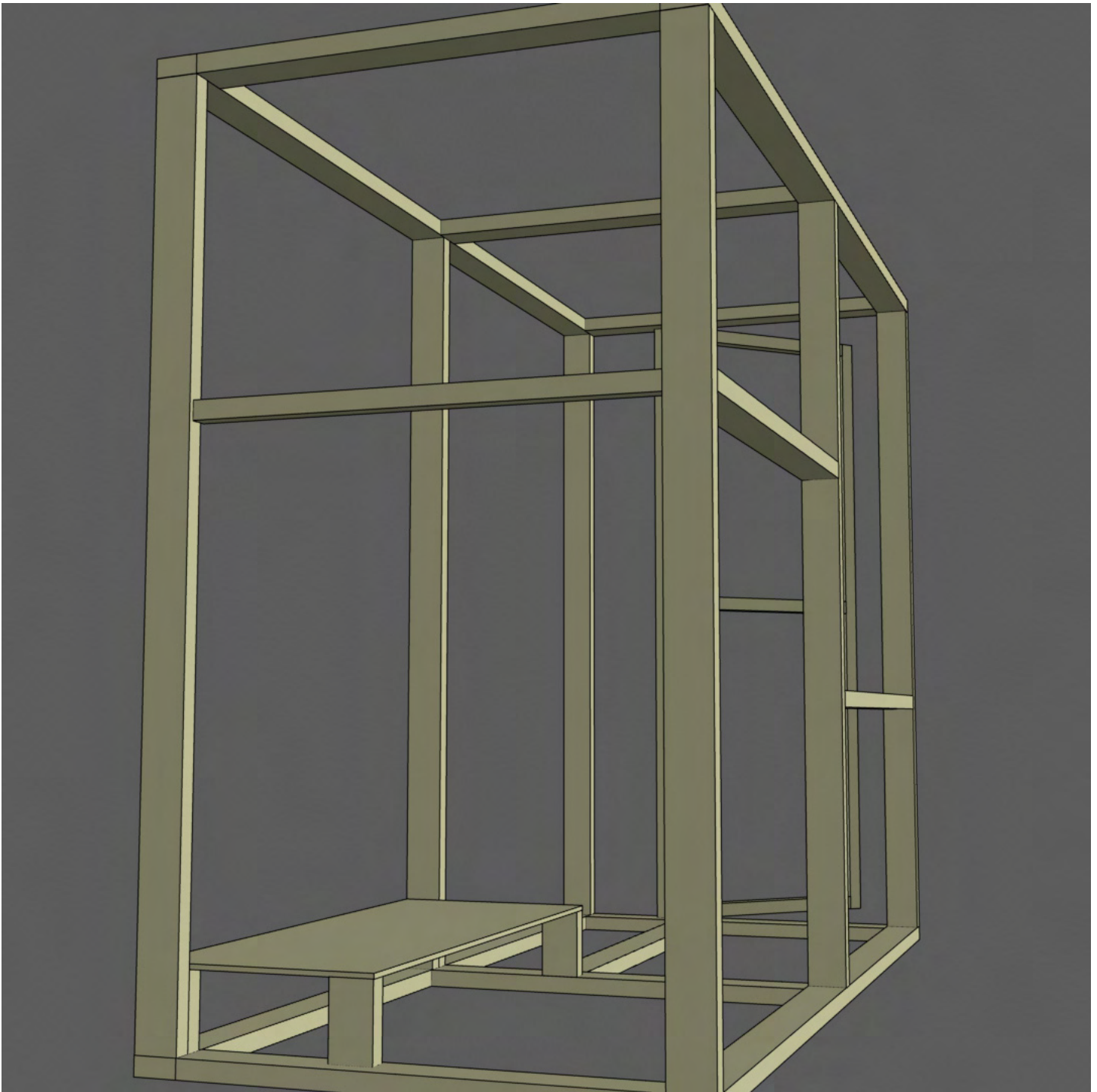


Door swung open to partially reveal a 'bunny tower' inside.

Additional detail on this feature to follow.

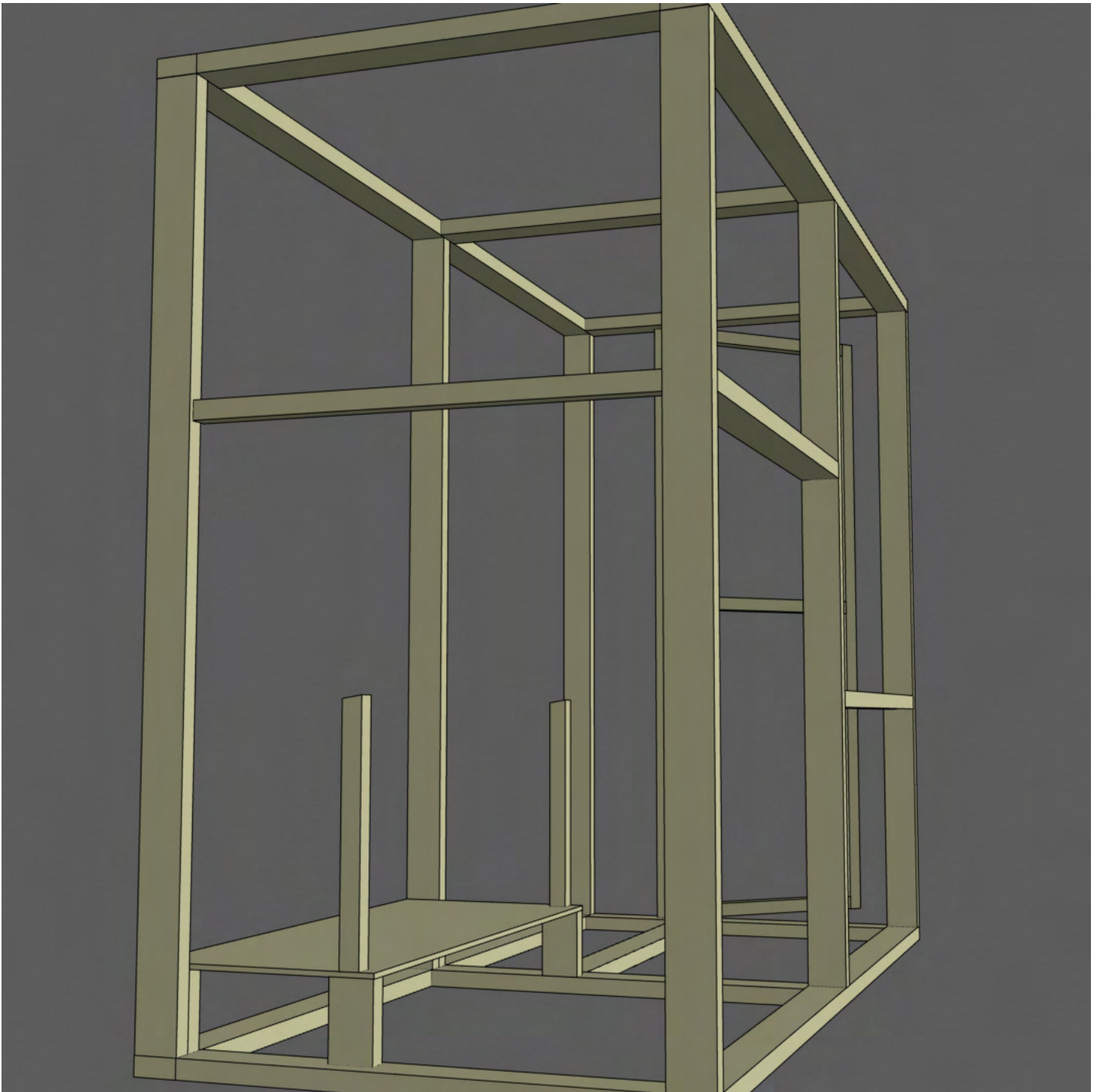


What follow are illustrations of the placement of the bunny food station.



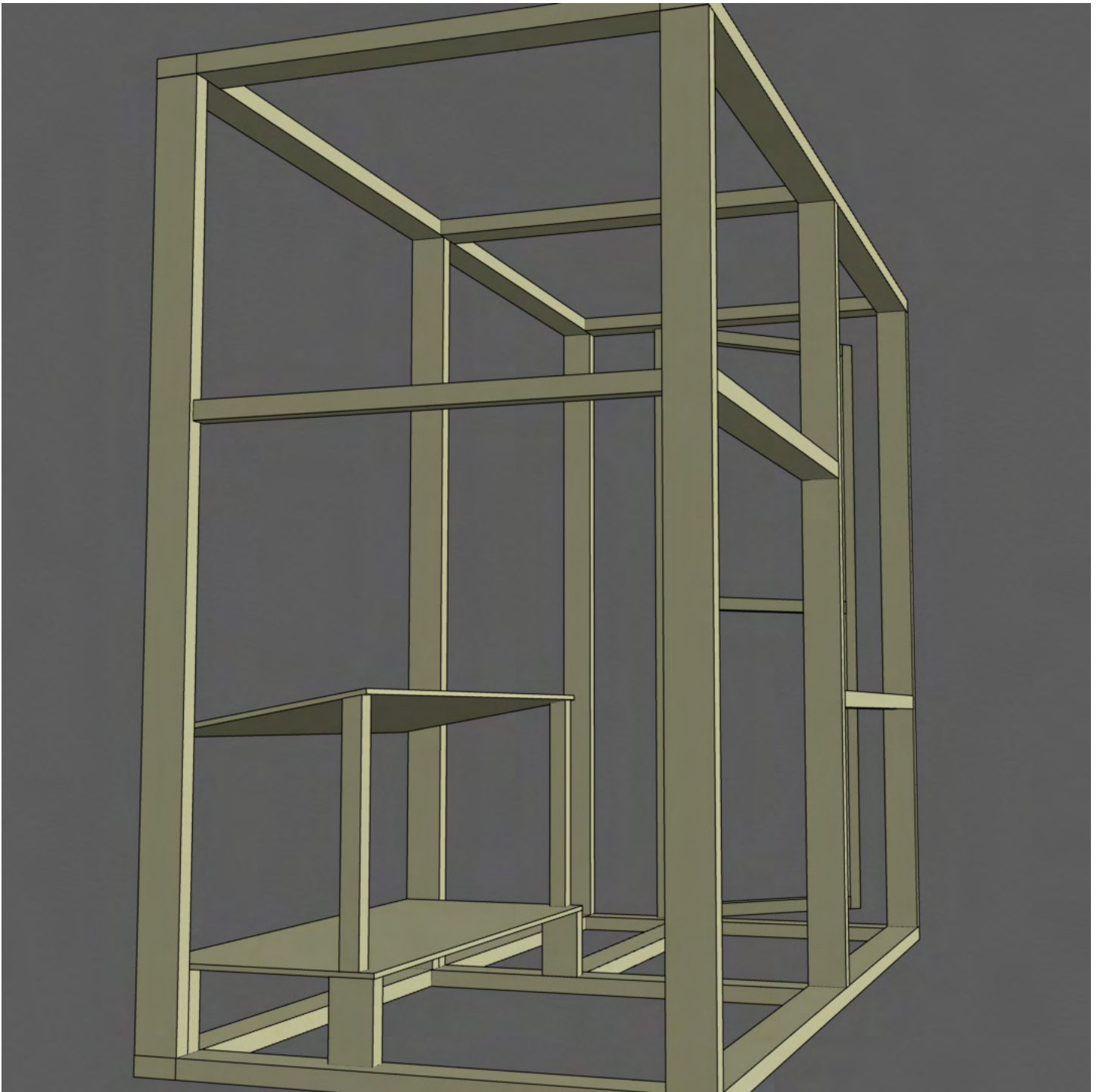
A platform of just under 4' long (116.4 cm) and 1.5' (45.7 cm) in depth is placed on feet made of two-by-fours. The feet are 6" high.

This raises them around 8 inches off of the ground and allows for a resting area on which cooler air can pool beneath. Rabbits can either lounge on the 'warmer' platform or, on a hot day, slip under the platform for cooler air.

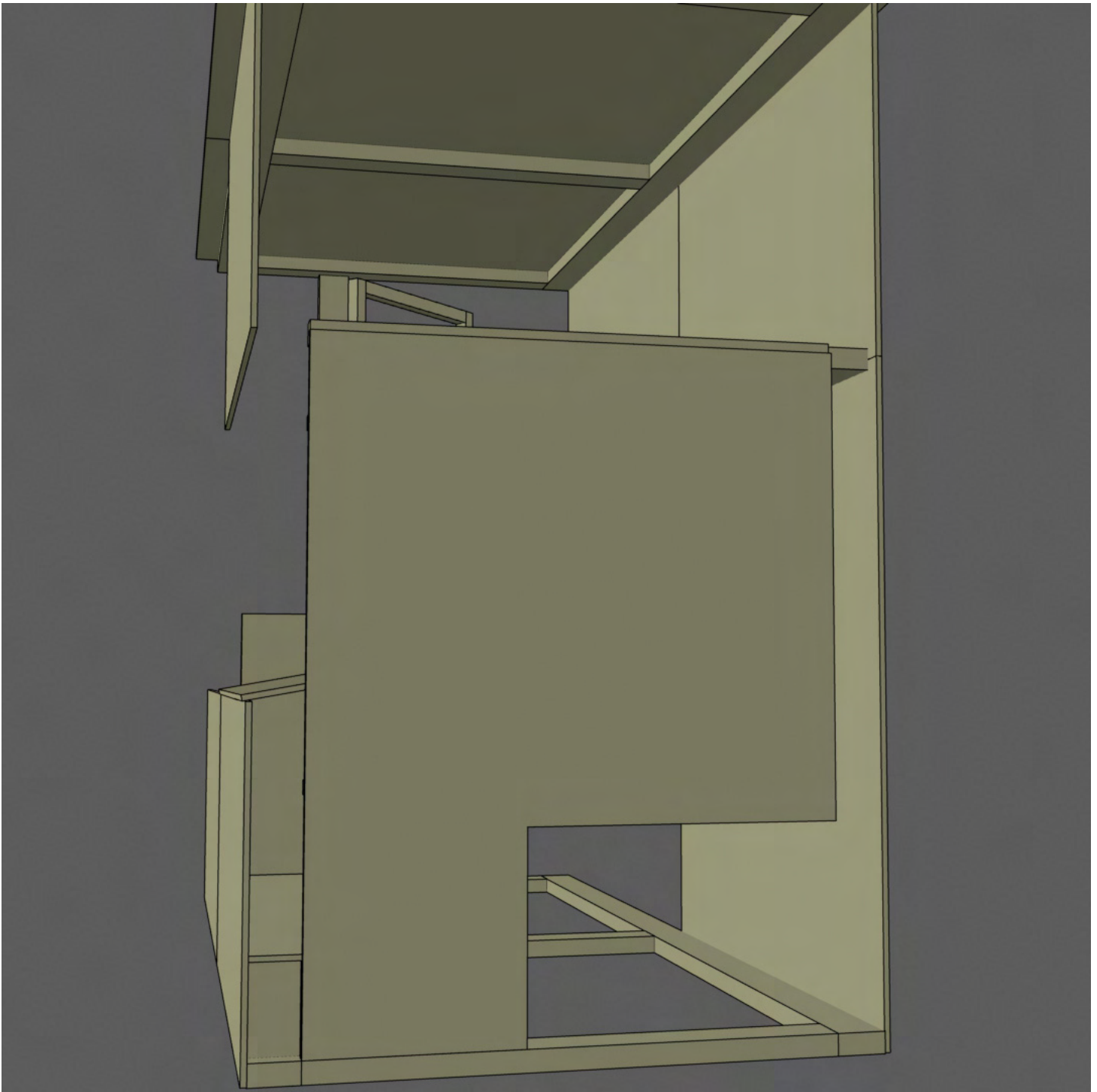


A couple of two-by-two boards are placed as supports for a sloped 'roof' for the eating area.

These are around 48 cm high and are cut at an angle that matches the slope of the horizontal roof panel that will rest on them.



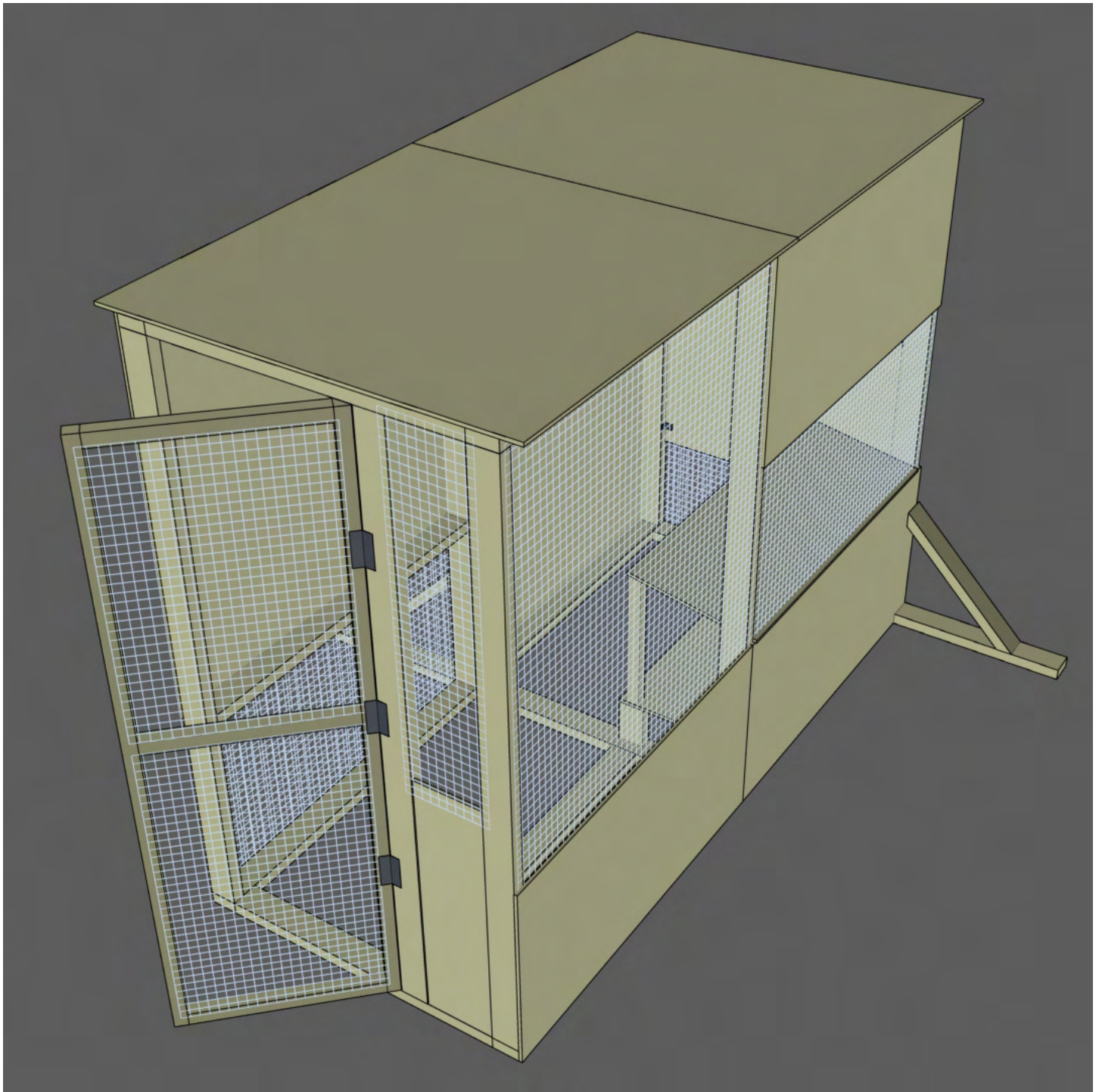
The sloped roof of the eating area should drain precipitation off and out of the enclosure. In this design, the back edge of the roof panel will rest on top of the side panel (shown in the next image). The construction phase will reveal whether or not additional support is needed at the back of this sloped roof panel.



This illustrates how the back of the sloped roof panel rests on one of the 2-foot-tall side panels.

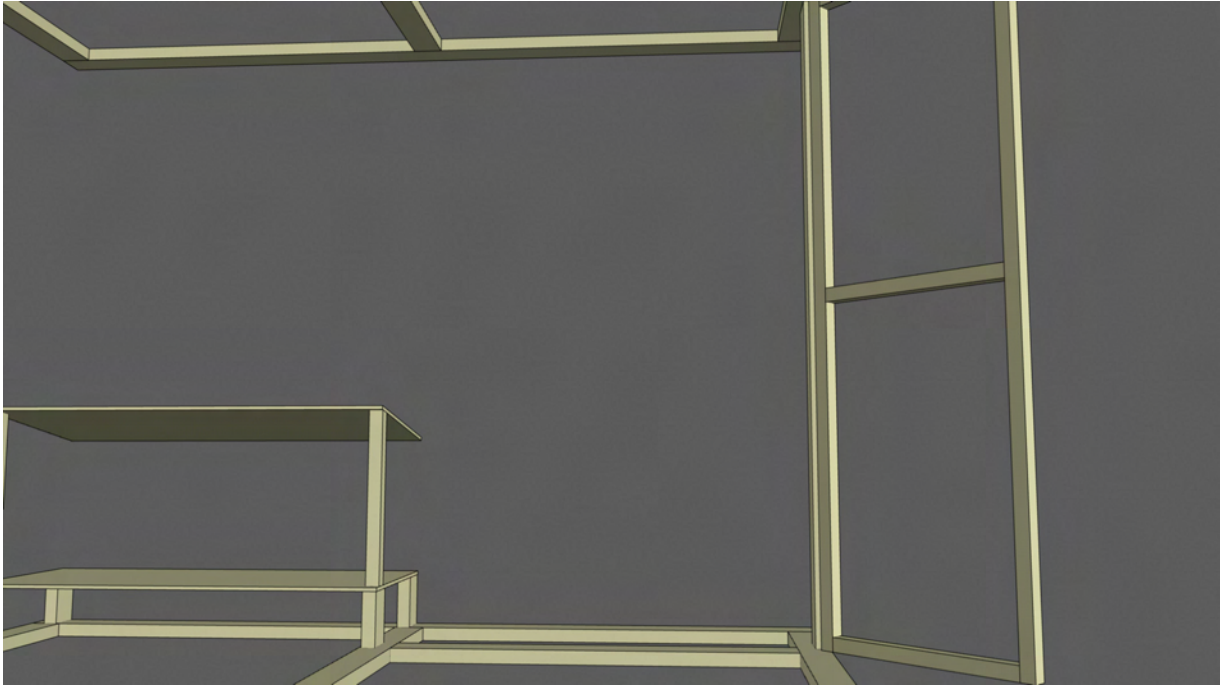
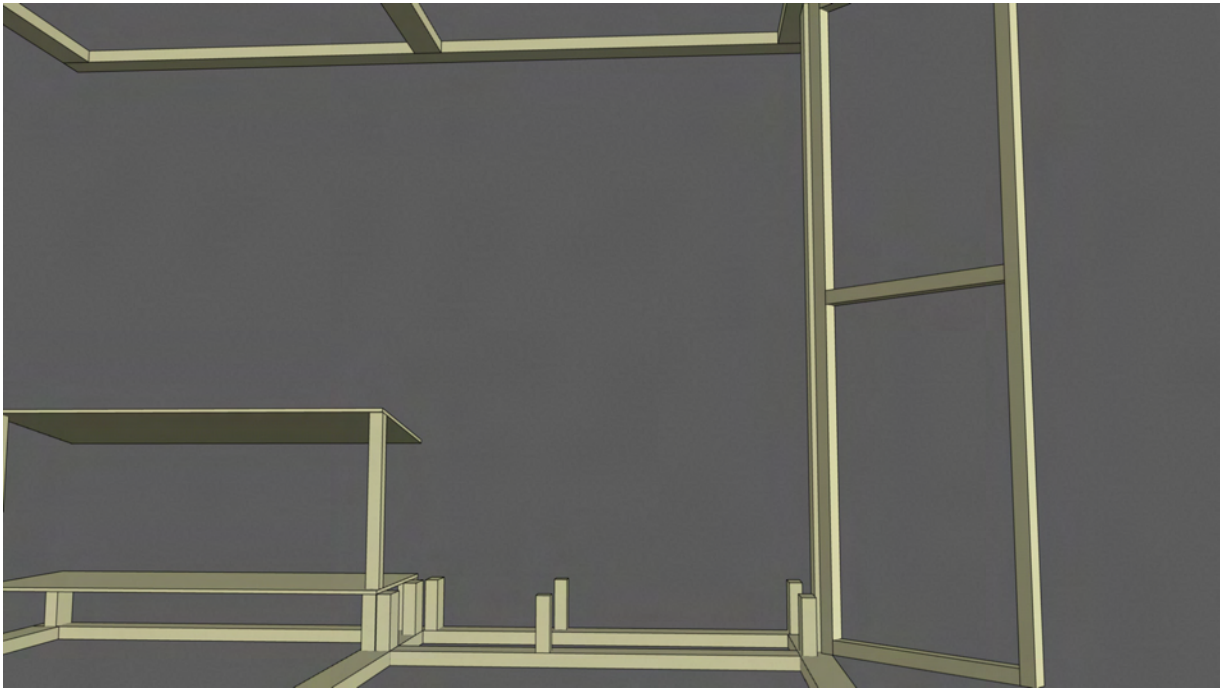
Wire mesh would be placed above these side panels.

The facing panel is held in place using metal right-angle anchors (two of which would attach to the vertical two-by-four that is not shown in this image).



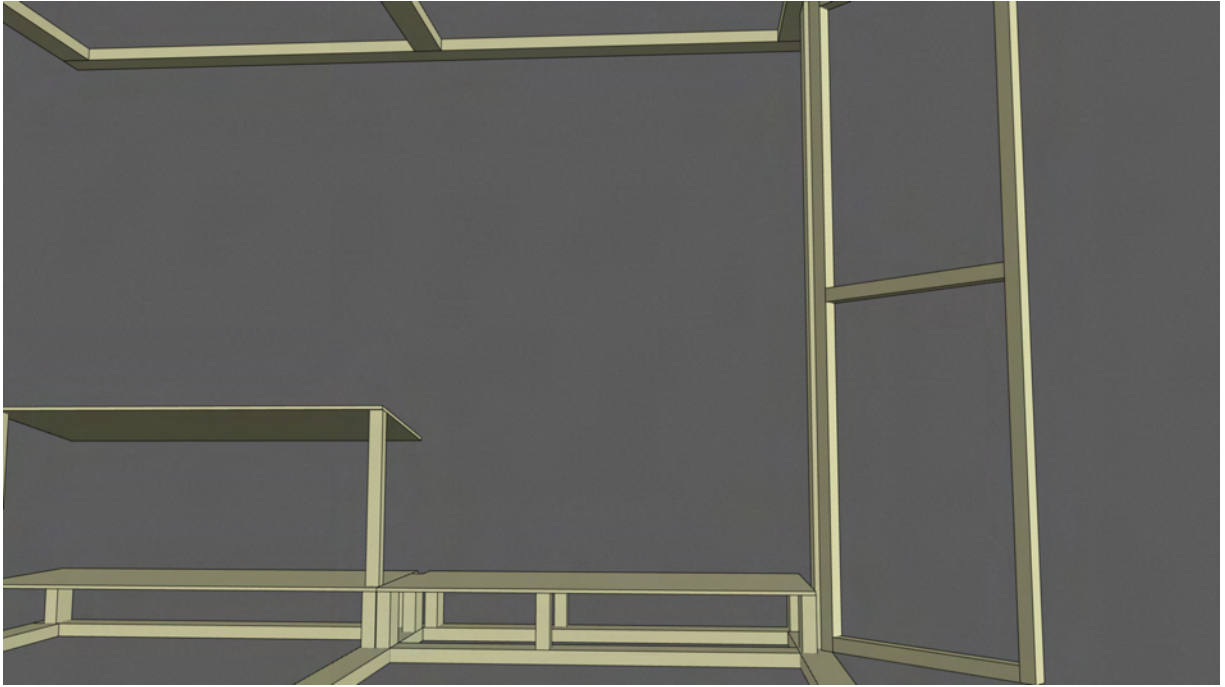
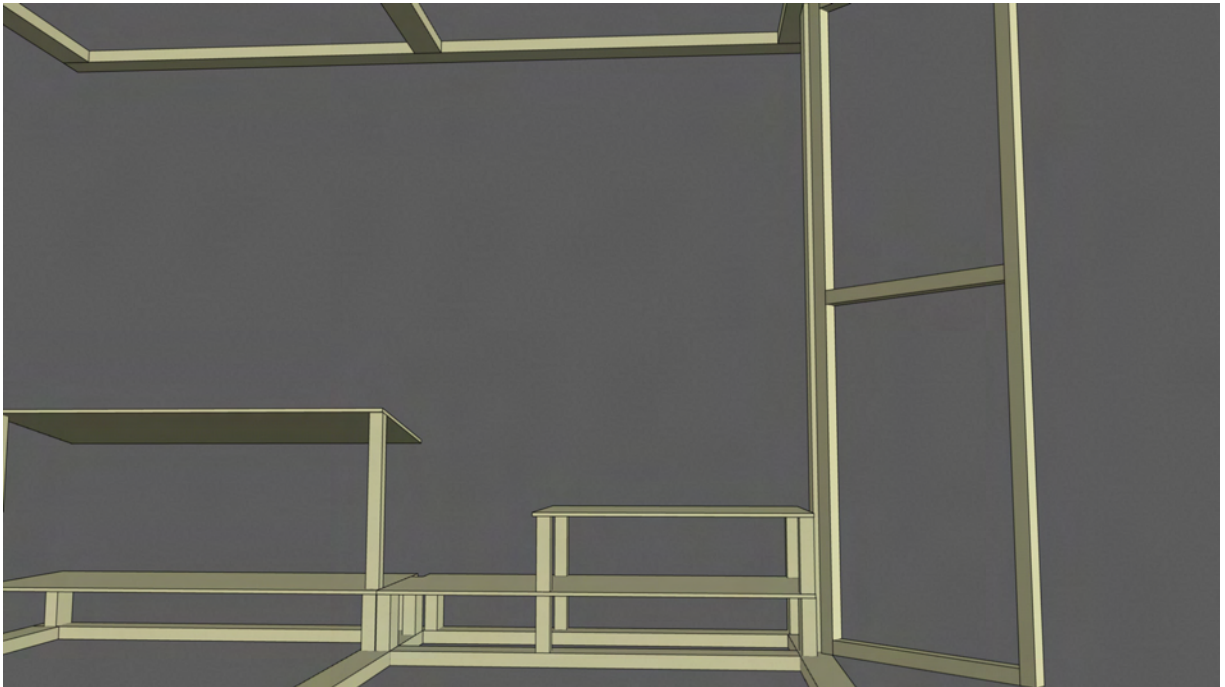
The food/lounging station shown from another angle -- panels in place.

One of the metal anchors is visible in the distance.



Next to the food station is room for a bunny tower. This is comprised entirely of platforms and openings for hopping from one level to the next. No ramps are used (rabbits neither need nor like ramps due to how their center of gravity works).

The first step is to place the bottom set of legs. As with the food station these legs are two-by-fours cut to 6" in length. They each rest on a foundation board.

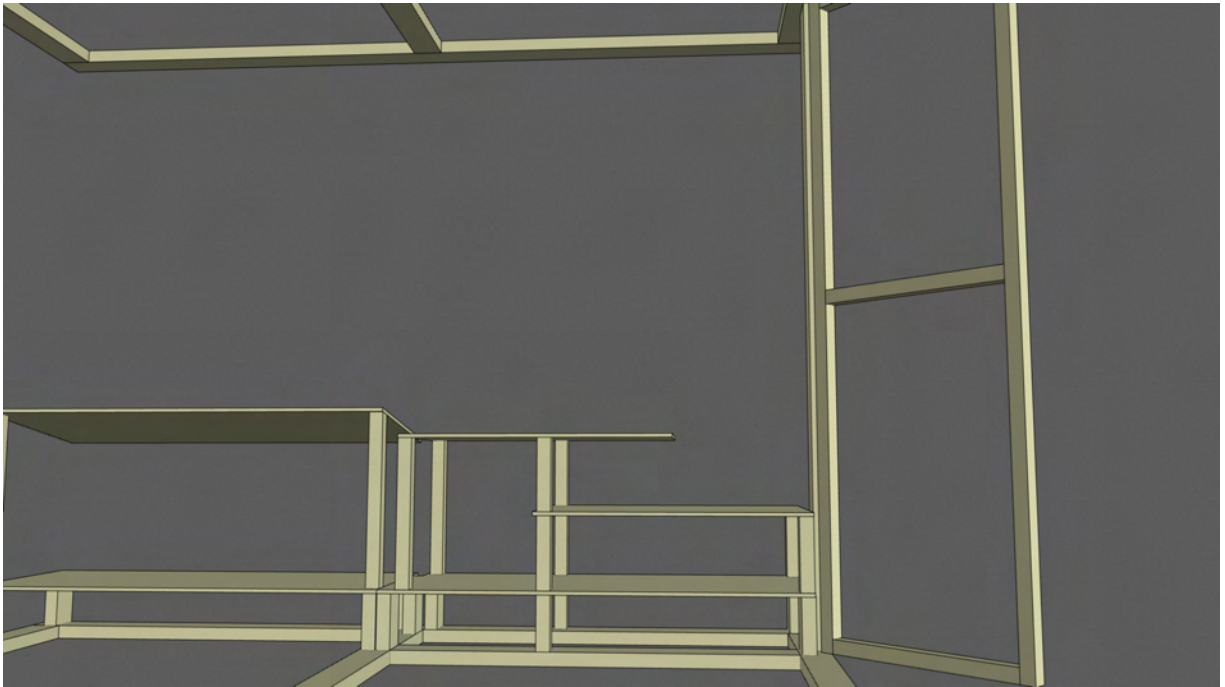
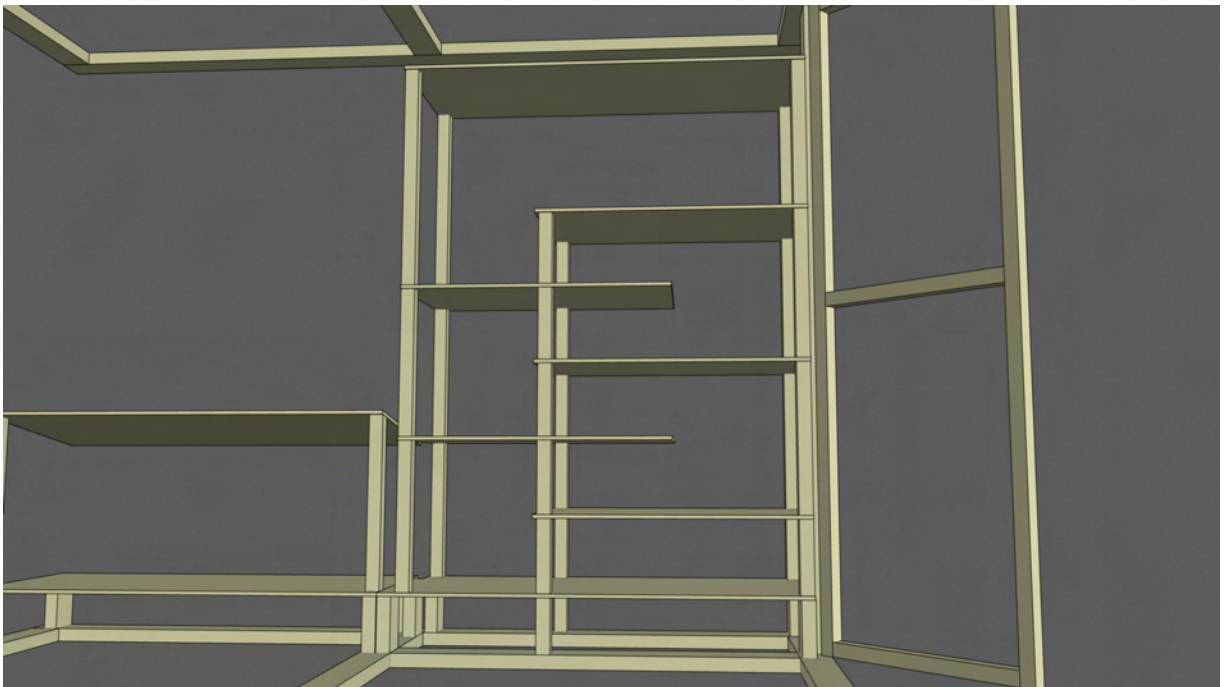


Platforms are then stacked up using slightly longer two-by-twos as legs.

The height of the legs for all of the platforms after the first platform are to be either 7.5" or 8" high (depending on size of rabbit). Rabbits generally prefer a platform height that is around the same as a step on a typical stairway in a residential home.

In this example, the legs are 8 inches high.

The bottom platform is 119 cm long (just under 4') and 1.5' deep/wide and is snug with the platform for the food station.



Continue stacking platforms to your liking in a zig-zap pattern.

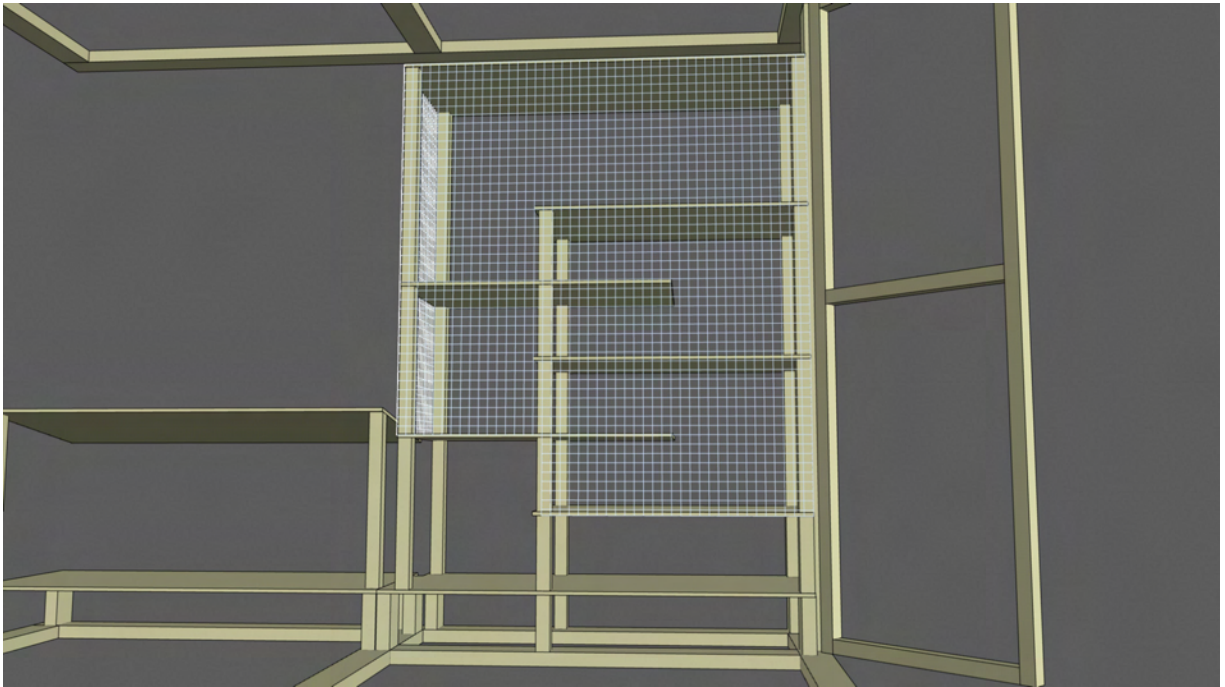
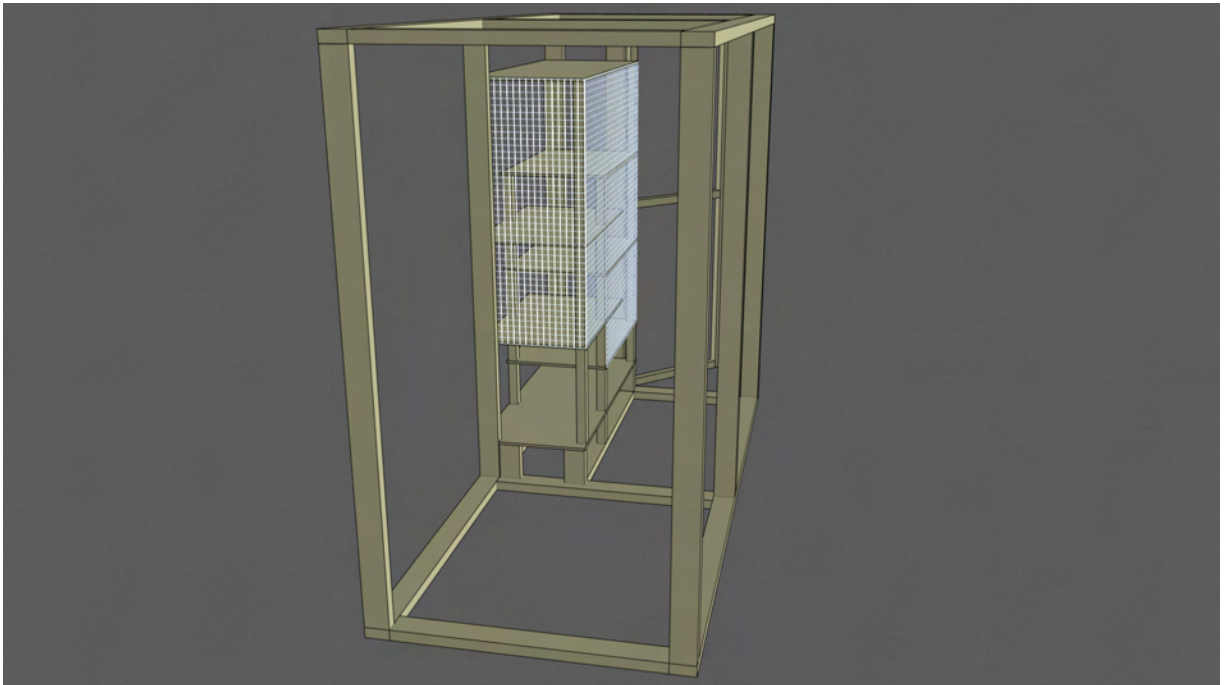
The top-most accessible platform can have a higher ceiling than the rest of them.

Length of short platform = 2.5'

Landing length = 1.5'

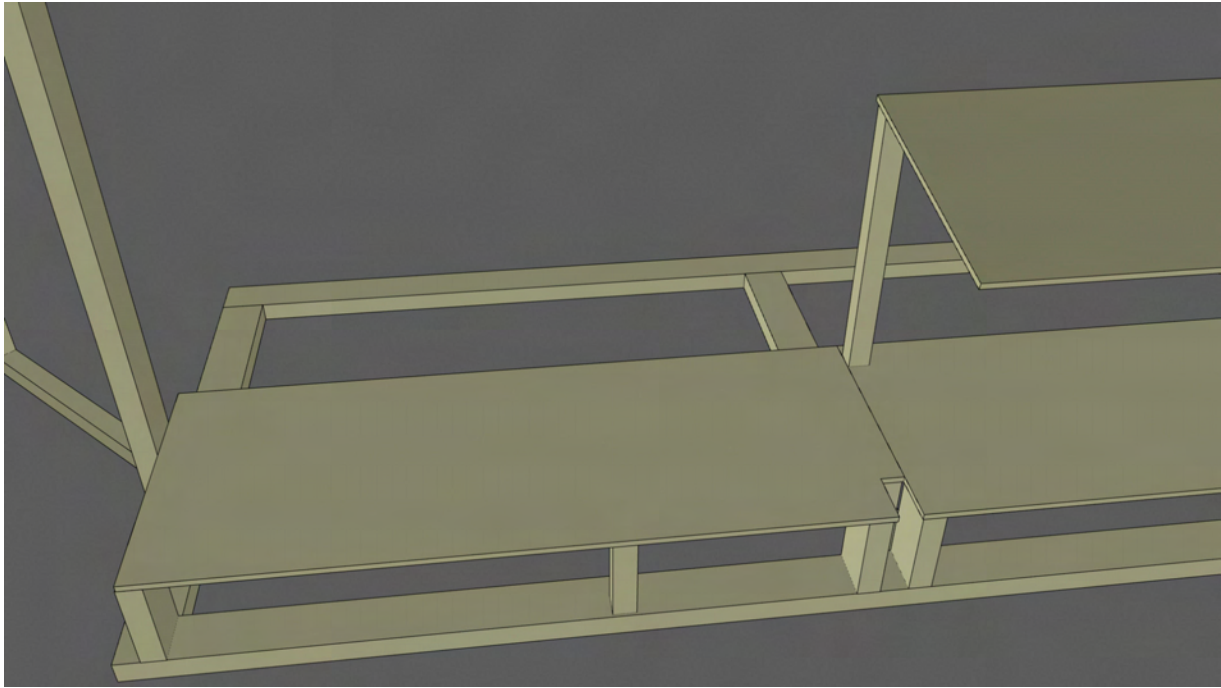
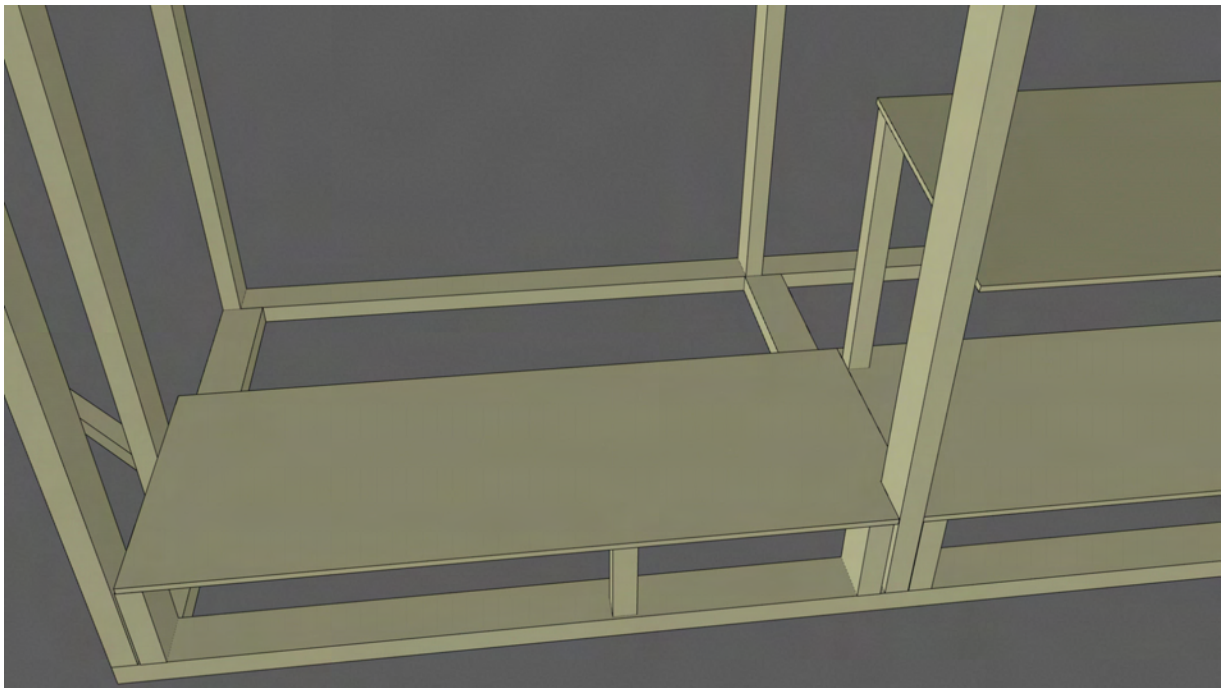
Length of top platform = 3.76' (114.6 cm)

Width of platforms = 1.5'



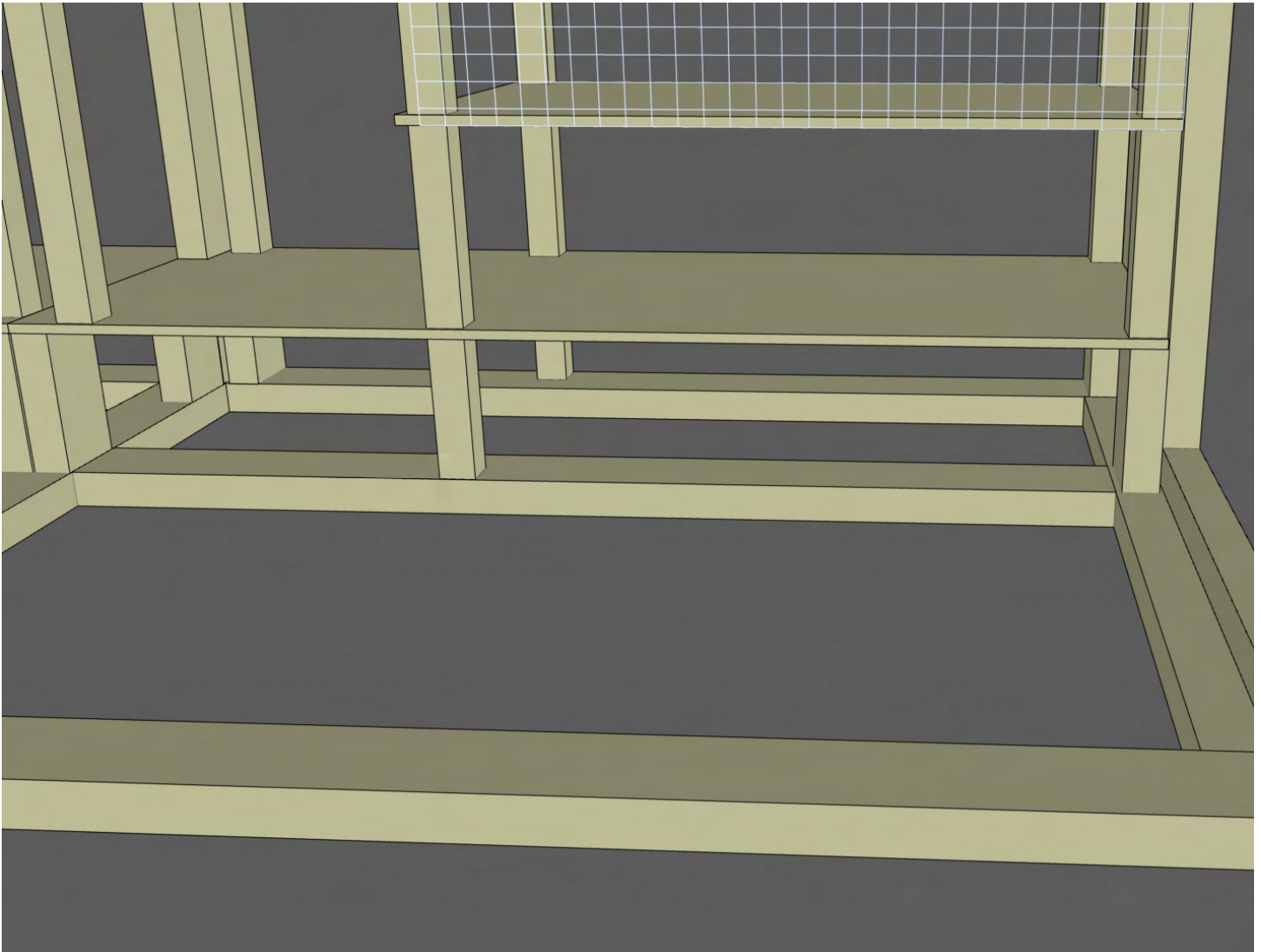
The final touch is to add the wire mesh so that bunnies can't accidentally fall off of the platforms.

Note where the mesh ends near the bottom. This allows for hopping access to the first platform and jumping clearance to and from ground level.



Another view of the bunny tower for clarity.

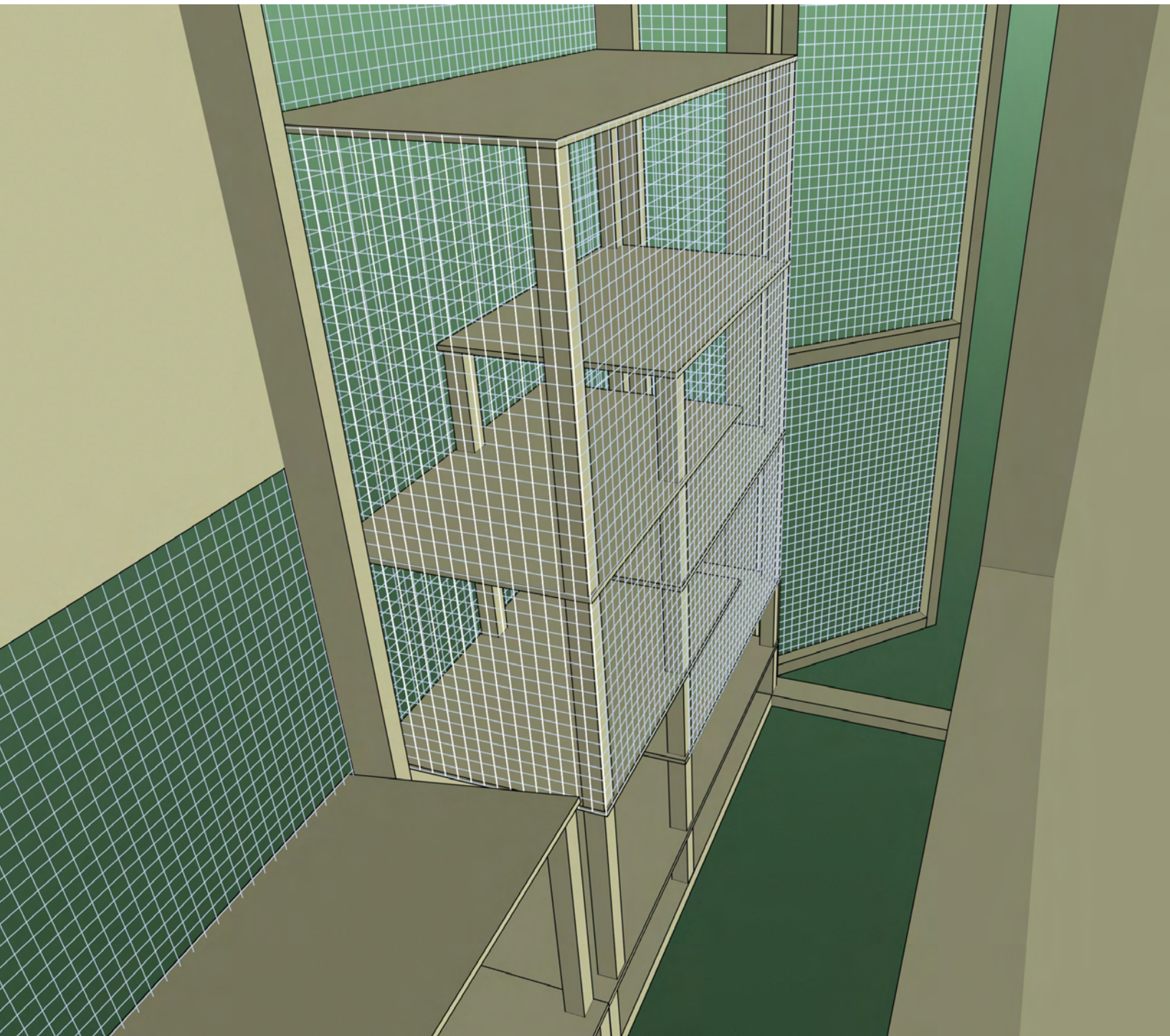
The back of the base platform for the bunny tower is notched out to allow the central main vertical two-by-four board to pass through it. That vertical two-by-four is shown in the second image.



The front right footing of the food station and the left front footing of the bunny tower share the same central two-by-four as foundation.

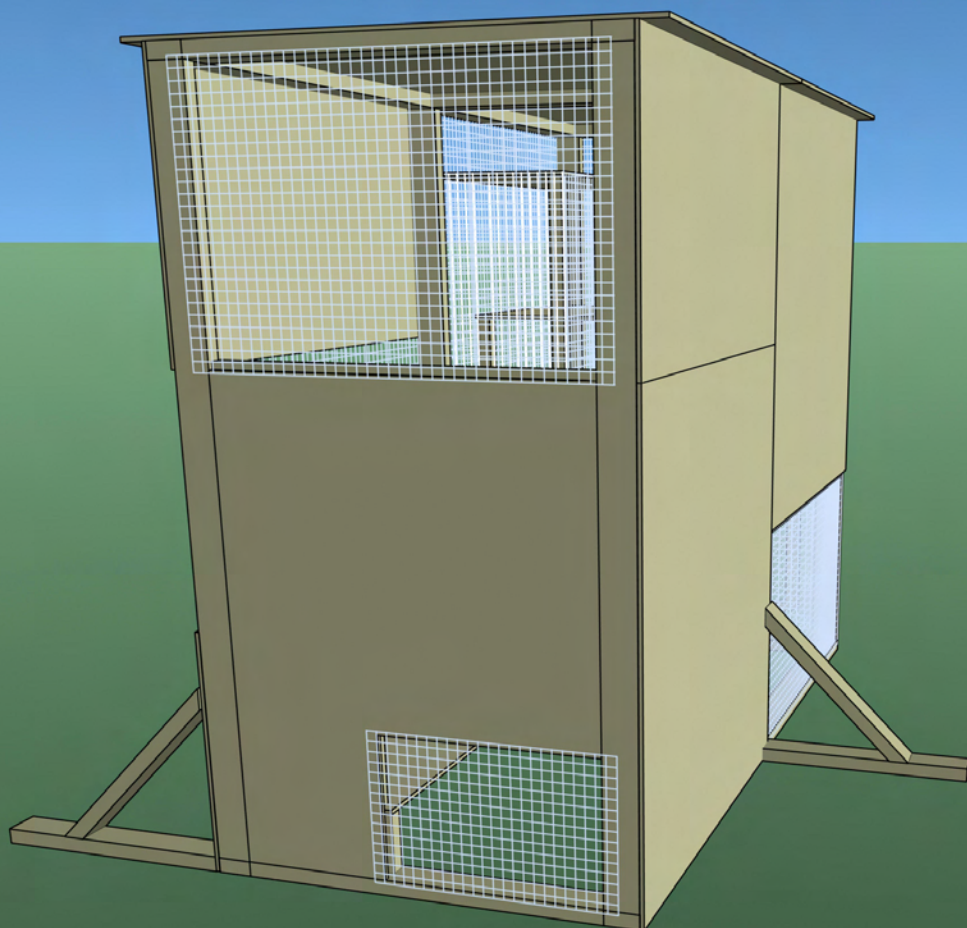
The side of the bunny tower closest to the door is resting on one half of the front foundation two-by-four while the door is above the other half of the same two-by-four.

The door is made of two-by-two boards which are a real-world 1.5" x 1.5" -- as are the legs for the platforms. The width of the two-by-four foundation can accomodate both.

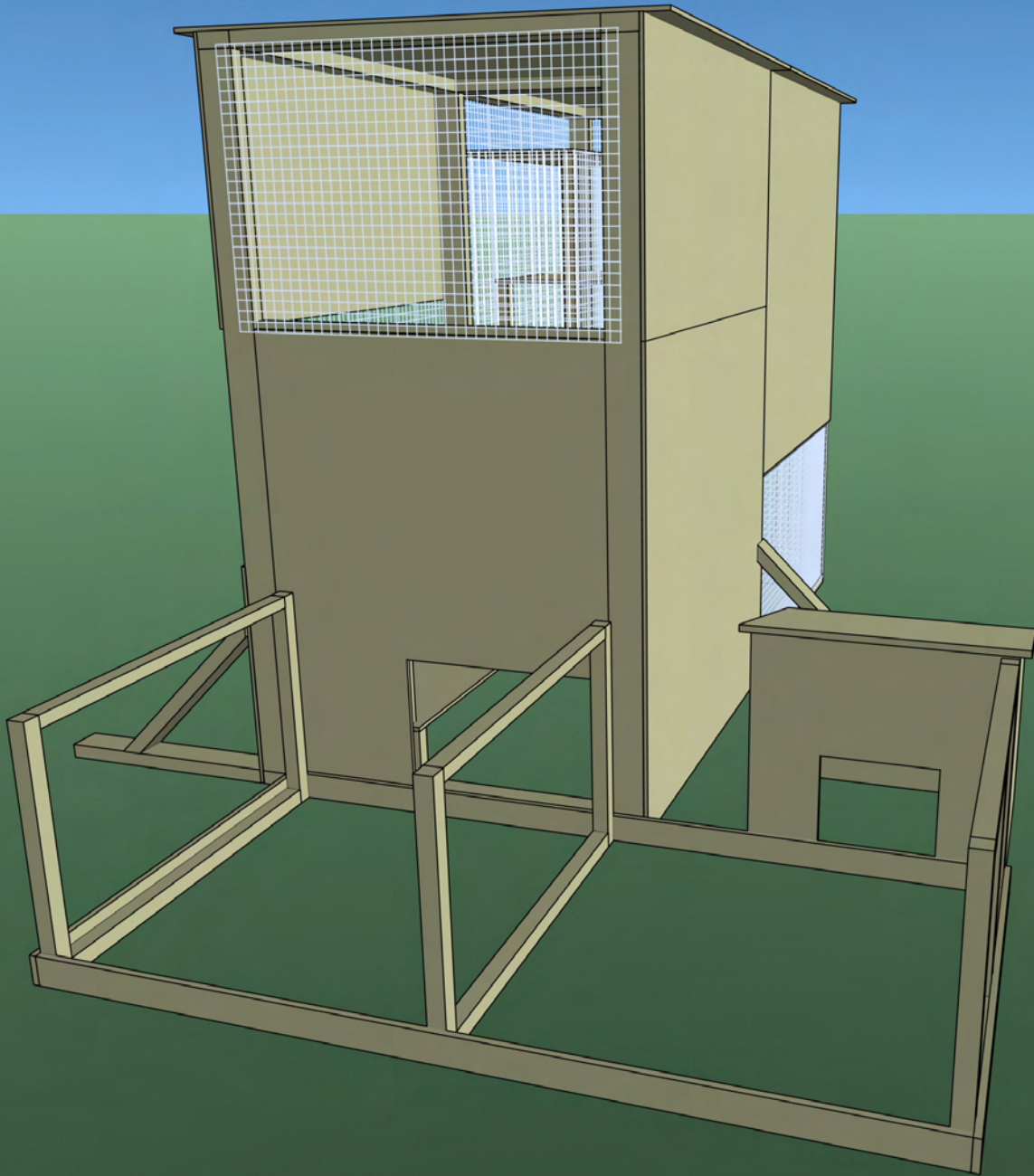


Interior view.

Platforms should be topped with carpet or other suitable non-slip material.



The lower aperture retains the possibility of attaching to an existing rabbit hutch or shed.



For example.