

How to Build a Storage Shed

This timber portal framed shed is designed for strength, head height and clear internal span. The secret to its strength lies in the rigid plywood gussets at the internal corners which transfer the roof loads directly to the ground and gives great stability. The frames can be constructed quickly and cheaply with a hammer and saw. The shed is based on a width of 2.4 metres, has a centre height of 2.4 metres resulting in a good head height throughout.

Its length can be varied according to the number of frames you use. Doors and windows can be added between the frames or on the end walls and the shed styled and trimmed to suit your house.

Construction

1 - Fix bottom plate to the perimeter of the slab and bolt. Plate offcut for door opening is used as 'Door Head'. Untreated seasoned pine must have a damp-proof membrane laid between the timber and concrete. Use of treated pine eliminates this requirements. Good building practice requires that ant-caps should be used under the bottom plate.

2 - Accurately mark all frame stations at 600 centres on the plates.

3 - Stand up end wall panels and clamp on one fascia and one ridge batten. Check for square then steady with temporary bracing.

4 - Slide in the intermediate frames and fix temporarily to batten and fascia. Fix to plates with metal framing anchors. Cut 'Door Head' and nail in place so that its bottom edge is 12mm lower than the fascia. Cut and fit the curtailed frame to head.

5 - Fit timber or metal angle bracing to both sides (not needed with ply sheeting). Fix cladding to all sides and trim with fascia, so that the top edge of the fascia follows in line with the top of the roof battens. Fix battens, roofing and ridge flashing as per manufacturers specifications for the roof system you have chosen. Roof sheeting should overhang the sides slightly.

6 - Make a rectangular frame which will fit inside the door opening with 3-8mm clearance on all sides. Fit diagonal brace as shown and overlap cladding to give a neat appearance.



How to Build a Storage Shed (cont.)

7 - Finish and trim as desired, e.g.

Tudor Style: White treated pine boards with black battens Ranch Style: Treated pine weatherboards or siding, green trim Rustic Colonial: Treated pine shiplap or chamfer board. Nordic: Diagonal treated pine chamfer board and shingle roof. Opaque exterior paints or natural oil stains will preserve and enhance the timber claddings. To reduce heat, pale colours are preferred.

