

EPISODE #2007 SHED OF REGRET

Discussion Points

There are three basic approaches to building a shed:

- Build it from a kit (this is for wimps)
- Buy a prebuilt shed (only if you're willing to spend a lot of money) or,
- If you're as handy as George and Leigh, build a shed from scratch using a plan.

Building a shed from scratch is obviously the most difficult, but you'll save money on materials and it certainly gives you a sense of accomplishment. This approach requires some tools, carpentry skill (if George and Leigh can do it, anyone can!), a considerable amount of time and as many friends as you can get. Beer helps!

Before you head to the lumber yard:

Consider these following points:

- **Size.**
Go a little bigger if you can, the space will be used, guaranteed!
- **Building codes and permits.**
These vary from place to place, check into these before you build.
- **Drainage.**
You don't want your foundation to shift or become soggy due to poor drainage. Laying down a bed of gravel will help to keep the soil from eroding. A little foresight and planning will ensure a stable shed.
- **Foundation.**
There are several options: wood; concrete slab; precast piers; poured concrete piers. The lads went with precast piers for decks because it's one of the easiest methods and offers a strong, stable foundation.

Basic steps to consider when building a shed:

- Buy a book about building sheds that includes expert advice, some include simple plans too.
- Keeping in mind drainage, lay out the plan on the ground using straight lines and batter boards.
- Lay foundation making sure it's level.
- Install corner posts, again making sure they're level. (fig. A)
- Build the floor joists. (fig. B)
- Nail down the shed floor. We used 5/8" tongue and groove plywood.
- Construct the roof trusses on the floor deck before the walls go up. Our roof had



A. Levelling the Foundation.



B. Building the Floor joists.



C. Construct the roof trusses.



D. Building a wall frame

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a 4' rise and a 12' run, using the equation rise over run, we cut the trusses for 19 degrees. (fig. C)

- Build the walls. Construct the frames first. We applied sheathing at the same time. Tip: Brace your walls while you build the others. (fig. D,E)
- If you're installing any windows in your shed, make sure there is enough support in the window frame.
- Install roof trusses. (fig. F)
- Install fascia and soffits. Just what is fascia and soffits anyway? Fascia and Soffits work together to close off the area beneath the roof eaves. The fascia covers the rafter ends while providing a surface for attaching gutters. Soffits prevent birds from nesting under your eaves and often have vents to bring fresh air into your attic space. (fig. G)
- Install roof sheathing.
- Install any doors and windows. Chantelcer Windows & Doors supplied the lads with a recycled window and door, which cut down the overall cost of the shed.
- Install roof shingles (fig. H)
- Clad your shed in siding. (we'll save this for another day!)
- It's that easy!



E. Bracing a wall.



F. Installing the roof trusses.



G. Install Fascia and soffits.



H. Installing the roof shingles.