WEEKEND SHED GUIDE

Shed Build Checklist

From permit check to the last coat of paint. Tick each box before you move to the next step.

BEFORE YOU START

- [ ] Check permit rules and property-line setbacks with your town.
- [ ] Pick ground within about 6 inches of level, away from low spots and out from under trees.
- [ ] Call 811 before you dig so buried utility lines are marked.
- [ ] Choose a size: 8×10 and 10×12 are the most common first builds.
- [ ] Get plans with a materials list and a cut list.

1. FOUNDATION

- [ ] Choose gravel pad, deck blocks, timber skids or a slab.
- [ ] Keep wood off the ground; use pressure-treated lumber near it.

2. FLOOR

- [ ] Build a frame from pressure-treated 2×6 or 2×8 boards.
- [ ] Check square: both diagonals must match.
- [ ] Joists every 16 inches on center, with joist hangers.
- [ ] Level the frame, then lay plywood with staggered seams.

3. WALLS

- [ ] 2×4 studs 16 inches on center, headers over openings.
- [ ] Square each wall, raise it, check plumb with a level, brace it.
- [ ] Nail the corners together and add an overlapping top plate.

4. ROOF

- [ ] Rafters or trusses at the spacing your plans say (16 or 24 inches).
- [ ] Sheathe with plywood or OSB, staggering seams.
- [ ] Drip edge, underlayment, then shingles from the bottom up.

5. FINISH

- [ ] Siding and corner/fascia trim.
- [ ] Paint or stain all exposed wood.
- [ ] Hang the door, add a ramp if needed, seal gaps.
- [ ] Hire a licensed electrician for any wiring.

TOOLS

- [ ] Circular saw, drill/driver, tape measure.
- [ ] 4-foot level, speed square, chalk line.
- [ ] Hammer, utility knife, sawhorses.
- [ ] Shovel and tamper for a gravel pad; a helper for raising walls.

General building information. Codes vary by town, so check yours. Our cost figures are examples from the sources listed on each page, not quotes.

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