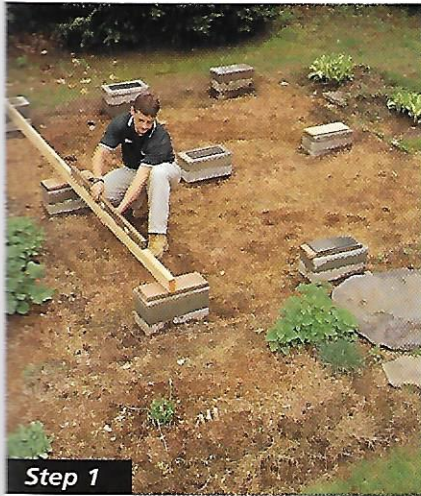


Raising a Preassembled Shed

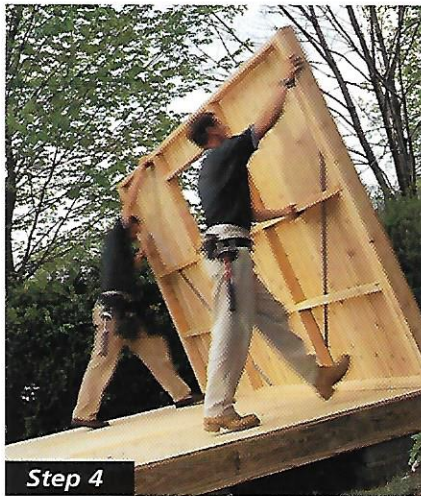


Step 1

If you have basic carpentry skills and a good helper, you should be able to erect a modest shed kit in a day or two. (The 10 × 12-ft. cedar shed shown above was built by two workers in about 7 hours.) To assemble a shed kit, follow the manufacturer's instructions. Here are the basic steps involved:

Step 1

Lay concrete foundation blocks over the ground (to promote air circulation under the shed). Use a long, straight 2×4 and a 4-ft. level to check that the blocks are level;



Step 4

place shims on the blocks until level.

Step 2

Nail a ¾-in. plywood floor onto 2×6 pressure-treated joists. Lay the floor onto the foundation blocks.

Step 3

Preassemble the roof trusses on the floor deck. Nail ½-in. plywood gussets across the joints to strengthen the 2×4 trusses.

Step 4

Raise the prebuilt walls, with the cedar siding attached, and nail them



Step 6

into place. Fasten two diagonal metal braces to the 2×4 frame to hold each wall square.

Step 5

Place the roof trusses on top of the walls, spaced 24 in. on center. Secure each truss with 3-in.-long screws driven up through the top plate of the wall.

Step 6

Nail plywood roof sheathing to the trusses. Leave space at the peak for a continuous ridge vent, then nail roof shingles onto the sheathing.

CUSTOMIZING A SHED

Most sheds are offered in a basic configuration with a list of optional upgrades and additions. The choices typically include a range of hardware, windows and doors—but can also include a porch, or even a sauna. This means that a customized shed can do double duty as a studio, hobby workshop, potting shed or poolside cabana. Here are some customizing ideas to consider:

- A storage attic loft
- A workbench
- Built-in shelving
- A cupola with a weather vane

- Shutters and window boxes
- A ramp (this is especially helpful if you have a mower, tractor or bike)
- An extra-wide doorway (this is needed for many tractors and riding mowers)
- A skylight to brighten the interior
- Gable or ridge vents to let hot air escape

However, if you end up deciding to make a lot of changes to a standard plan, consider hiring a contractor to help you plan and build a shed that will suit your requirements.