This shed building guide should be used in conjunction with the gable shed plans available at my website shedking.net. These sheds can be used to build storage sheds, chicken coops, playhouses, tiny houses, garden sheds and much more!

I have tried to make this guide as simple as possible, and I have tried to make my building plans as comprehensive and easy as possible to follow and understand. If at any time anything presented in the plans or building guide is not clear to you please contact me at shedking@gmail.com.

As I always advise, please get a building permit and have your plans inspected and gone over by your local building inspector. Many counties in the United States do not require a permit for structures under a certain square footage, but it is still very wise to get the advise of your local building department no matter what the size of the structure.
If after purchasing a set of my plans and you want to know if they are good for your county, I won’t be able to answer that question! All my plans are written utilizing standard building practices, but I cannot write my plans so that they satisfy every local building code.

Safety is and should be your number one concern when building any outdoor structure.

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Disclaimer

Do not purchase materials or attempt to build this shed project unless you have studied the information provided thoroughly, and have verified all dimensions and material requirements for yourself. Also verify that the plans conform to local building codes and practices. Although every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information and design, the user is ultimately responsible for the use of this information. All information provided is copyrighted and cannot be duplicated without the permission of Shedking.

You, the plan buyer and builder, assume all risks and responsibilities associated with building this shed/barn and hold harmless John Shank, shedking.net from any misconceptions or misunderstandings about anything construed or implied in these plans.
Wooden Shed Floor Construction

The plans that you have purchased show a wooden shed floor with 4x4 treated skids that can be anchored down with concrete anchors in the corners and blocking of some sort used in between those anchors. Or, the 4x4 skids can be resting on a base of 4” compacted stone. Building a wooden shed floor on concrete anchored posts is one of the most widely accepted methods of anchoring a shed floor for county permits. You will want to check with your local county building inspector to make sure you adhere to their regulations.

Your shed floor is going to be built off of 4x4 skids which are attached to posts which are in turn sitting in a hole filled with concrete, usually with the bottom down below the freeze depth. This will typically be 30” or more. Obviously if you live in a warmer climate this will not be an issue for you, but it would still be wise to check to see what depth you need to dig for your anchors. Check to see what your depth should be by calling your local building department.
Framing a Wooden Shed Floor

A wooden shed floor consists of the following:

- 4x4 skids Treated lumber
- Anchored Posts
- Joists - Treated Lumber
- Rim joists - Treated Lumber
- Band boards - Treated Lumber
- Floor Sheeting - Treated Lumber optional
Having level ground to build your shed floor on is the ideal situation. Unfortunately this is seldom the case! If your ground is not level, you will have to take steps to either level it out, or shim up your shed floor where ever necessary. The optimal system for good support under your wooden shed floor is to have a 4” thick level bed of gravel. This can be the entire area of the floor, or just where your skids will be located.

If you are building your shed on very uneven ground then you may have to have your floor supported with all concrete anchored posts, or concrete posts in the corners with some sort of support blocking in between these
anchors. These can be pieces of treated 2x4's or concrete blocks.

1. Cut all skids to proper length listed in the plans and place them on the ground according to plan specifications.

2. Cut all interior floor joists and 2 rim joists to proper length and position on top of the skids you just laid down on the ground.

3. Cut the band boards to proper length. Make marks for your joist locations simultaneously on both band boards for nailing your floor joists in the right spots. You'll use 16d galvanized or coated nails here.

Nail one band board onto the floor joists using 2 - 16d nails per end.
4. Now pull the floor joists over until other ends are above the other skid and nail the other bandboard in place.

5. With the floor framed up and band boards in place, pull your floor frame so that it is correctly positioned over the floor skids.

6. Square up your floor by first taking diagonal measurements from opposing corners. These two measurements need to be equal. As an example, if your shed floor is 10x12, the diagonal measurements would be 15' 7-1/2". Measure diagonally across the floor to square it up, then measure diagonally across the other two corners. Shift the frame until both measurements are the same. Using a sledge hammer and gently tapping one corner or the other will help shift your framing to where it needs to be.

7. Double check to make sure that the 4x4 skids are in the proper position and then toe nail your floor joists to them. Make sure that your floor joists are spaced where they need to be. The ends of the skids should be flush with the rim joists outside face. Use 2 -16d nails per joist/skid location, one toe-nailed on either side of the joist into the skid.

8. If you are going to use the post anchoring method, you’ll want to slide your shed floor over about 1 foot and mark the location for the holes you are going to dig. I typically put the corner posts between the first and second floor joists. Drop your 4x4 posts into the holes and plumb them up vertically. Mark from the bottom of the 4x4 skids adjacent to the posts. This is where you will cut the post(s), then slide your shed floor back over on top of the posts.
9. Make sure everything is lined up properly and your floor is still square. Attach your skids to the tops of the posts using mending plates and then add concrete down into the holes.

10. Next step is to nail down floor sheeting over your floor joists. Stagger your sheets for strength. The example shown below is with 3/4” treated plywood 4’x8’ sheets cut to fit.
11. Nail the sheeting down with 8d or 6d galvanized nails every 6” along the perimeter and every 12” inside on the joists.

12. Start the first sheet in one of the corners by first nailing the short edge making sure its flush with the rim joist. Next you can pull or push if you have to to make sure the long edge is flush with the band board and nail this edge next. Next you will nail the flooring panel down along the inside floor joists.

13. Next continue on with the rest of the floor panels finishing that row first then nailing down the rest of the floor sheets.

14. With the floor finished now you are ready for assembly of the shed walls.

Building Shed Walls

Follow these steps for building shed walls. The two longest walls are usually built and placed on the floor first. These may or may not contain door and window openings. If these walls do contain window and door openings please read the section on building shed walls containing doors.
that is located further along in this wall building section.

1. Shed walls can be laid out and built right on your shed floor. If this doesn’t work for you a flat surface like a garage floor will work fine.

2. Cut bottom wall plates and top wall plates to length. Place your top and bottom plates together, and mark off locations of wall studs on both plates. This way your on center wall stud locations will be exactly the same for both plates.

   *Example of 2’ on center wall studs*

   ![Example of 2’ on center wall studs](image)

If you are going to add a door or window on this wall, this needs to be indicated when making your wall stud locations. There’s nothing worse with framing then to get your wall erected on the floor just to discover that you forgot to frame in for a door or window. You have to cut out several wall studs and re-do some of the framing.

3. Cut the wall studs to length, place between your top and bottom plates along with any door and window framing studs, and nail into place. Framing is typically done with 16d nails. Use 2 nails per stud nailed through the plate into the stud end.

4. If you prefer, you can cut your siding now and nail onto the walls before
standing them up. This will actually help square your wall studs up. Leave a 1 to 2” overhang past the bottom wall plate so that when you go to stand your wall up, this additional siding can be nailed to the floors outside rim joist or band board with 6d galvanized nails.

5. The top of the siding is flush with the top plate. Start by lining up your top left corner and left edge, then nail down the siding along that edge. Next, square your wall up by lining up the top edge with the edge of the top plate then nail the siding into the top plate. Now you can finish nailing your siding into place along all other studs and the bottom plate. Nail every 12” along the interior studs and 6” around the perimeter of the siding.

6. Stand your wall up and make sure it is in the correct position on your shed floor, then nail down through the bottom plate into the floor using 16d galvanized nails. I always try to nail into the floor joists if I can.

7. At this point, nail on a brace(s) temporarily to secure your wall in place while you build the opposite wall.
8. Build the opposite side wall in the same manner and stand in place, or if you want to continue using your shed floor for building walls, temporarily move the wall you just built and set it aside. This way you’ll still have plenty of room to build the rest of the shed walls.

9. At this point, build the wall containing the door.

**Building The Wall(s) Containing Doors**

The information shown below is off my website and is for building double shed doors at any location of your wall. Information on single shed doors follows. Your plans will be identical to what is shown below or may be a very similar version of what’s illustrated in the following pages. If you want to frame your doors out with cedar as opposed to 2x4’s and 2x6’s, you would just place the 2x’s on the back side of the door panel, and frame out the front with 1x4 cedar pieces.

**Step 1**

Before you begin any framing for your shed, it’s best to decide what size doors you actually need because the framing for the wall containing these
doors will have to be framed correctly for this.

For our example to use to explain how easy this really is, I am going to use the following guidelines to build a 5' wide double door for a shed that has a 10' long wall that this door has to be framed into. This is really easy if you are siding your shed with the smartside siding panels, or planning on siding over OSB sheets with some sort of lap siding. It doesn’t matter.

Ok, lets say with this 10’ wall you want your door on the right side 1’ away from the corner. Here’s what the framing for this wall will look like with 16” on center wall studs, and the example shows a wall that is 7’ tall.

![Example of Framing a 5' Double Shed Door](image)

Step 2

When it’s time to put your siding on whether it be OSB or T1-11 or
smartside siding panels, the next step is to find the exact middle of your door opening. Cut your siding to the desired length. Usually this will be so that your siding extends down past the floor by about 2” or so. What ever you decide on this measurement, it should remain the same all around your shed.

If you are just using osb, your first osb panel will be attached to the wall framing so that your panel edge is even with your middle of the door mark. To make things easier for you, a temporary board can be nailed on to the rim joist or band board so that your siding panels rest on this board. Nail this panel to the wall framing along the header edge, and the jack stud of the door framing. You won’t be nailing into the bottom of this osb panel where the door will be opening.

Using a reciprocating saw you can cut the door panel out from the back side then cut the front section left on the bottom front with a circular saw.

If you plan on building a ramp for your shed, you will want to cut the bottom of your door panel so that it is flush with the top of the floor.
The next panel can now be placed into position so that the overlapping edge is in the right place leaving a gap that is consistent with the grooves in your panels if you have them. Nail this panel to the framing and cut this panel as you did with the first.

Now both panels have been cut out and your shed wall containing the door opening will look like this:
We have our 5’ door opening for double shed doors and we have the two
door panels we cut out that we can now build our doors with.

We can start with either panel, it makes no difference. If you decide that
you want a shed ramp on this shed, as I mentioned earlier, the panels we
have for the doors will have to have the bottoms trimmed off so that the
panels when opened and shut will clear the top of the shed ramp.

For this example, we will figure on cutting the panels off for a ramp. This
works out to be roughly about 2” off the bottom of each door.
Working with each door panel individually, we can now frame the outside of these panels with 2x4's and 2x6's as such. These doors will be easier to build using exterior grade 1.5” screws, screwing from the back of the panels into the front 2x4's and 2x6's.
With the door panels assembled now with 2x4’s and 2x6’s the shed itself now needs to be framed out with 2x4's and a lentil around the door opening. The 2x4’s will serve as door jambs and should be screwed or nailed to the frame flush with the door opening.

The door lentil can be made of a 2x6. Mount the jambs on each side so that they extend above the door opening about 1/4". Once the door jambs are screwed on and in place, your lentil can be nailed into place. With the door jambs extending 1/4" above the door opening, this will allow the doors to swing freely.
Doors in Place, and Trimmed Out
Building Single Shed Doors Made Easy

Here's a simple, fast, and very easy way to build your single shed doors up to 36” wide. You could go wider, but any wider than 3’ would necessitate the building of double shed doors as the weight would be too heavy.

Our example will be to frame in a single swing shed door on a 10’ long wall. This method will work for placement of the door anywhere you want but for example sake, we will be building this shed door 3' from the right side and it will be a 3' wide door.

Here's what the framing will look (below) like for this shed wall, with our wall height being just shy of 7’. 7’ is a typical height for shed walls. If you are wanting to put in a pre-hung exterior door, then 8’ would be your ideal wall height.
The framed wall shown above is without any other walls showing for illustration purposes only. Your shed will probably have all walls up and possibly the roof framed before any door construction occurs!

For this door opening we will have a 2x6 header framed in above the door opening.

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Shed Door Header Construction
Construction of a door header is shown above.

If you are siding with a material like t1-11 or LP smartside siding panels, or putting lap siding over 1/2" osb, this method works great!

Take a sheet of siding mentioned above and cut it too length so that you will have a 1.5" to 2" overhang at the bottom past the floor. This is for weather protection. Nail on your siding panel (the full 4' width) so that the entire door opening is covered up but your panels vertical edges fall right in the middle of the wall studs.

This panel can be nailed to your wall framing with spiral 6d galvanized nails. Just make sure not to nail the bottom under the door opening as we will be cutting our panel out to use for our door.

The easiest way to cut this panel out is to use a reciprocating saw or
sawzall saw. Start on the inside and cut the siding out along the framed door opening all the way around down to the floor. The very bottom of the door will have to be cut out from the outside using your sawzall saw or a circular saw set to the depth of your siding thickness. When you are done, your wall with cutout will look like this:

With our door panel cutout, set it aside. We want to next nail on 2x4’s around the outside edges and make a 2x6 lentil for the top of the door as shown below.
Next step is to frame out our cut out door panel with 2x4’s and 2x6’s. These can be attached with 6d galvanized nails nailing from the siding side into the 2x material. Frame out the door panel as shown in the illustration below. Attach the hinges to the door, and place a temporary 2x4 nailed to the floor so that you can rest the door on it while attaching the hinges to the framing around the door opening.

The 2x material around the perimeter of the door panel should be flush with the panel edges. This will allow you sufficient clearance for the door swing.
The 'D' handle shown on this shed door is available on my website. Look on the homepage on the right side at www.shedking.net and you will see a link for shed door hardware. This is a great supplier of shed door hardware and windows, etc.
A gable style roof for your shed can be built using trusses or a ridge board.

Gable Shed Roof Using Trusses

Email: shedking@gmail.com
Building a Gable Shed Roof Built With Trusses

A gable shed roof built with trusses will have interior trusses, end truss assemblies, and over hang truss assemblies (if your roof has an overhang). The top truss pieces for all of these will be exactly the same. Your gable roof may have side overhangs, as you can see in the illustrations above, or be flush with the outside walls without any overhang.
Trusses are simple to build, but you will want to build only one to start with. The reason for this is that you will want to make sure your first truss fits over the walls top plates properly. Then you can continue on building the remaining trusses for your shed roof.

Build only one interior truss assembly first. Cut the top truss pieces and gusset plates, according to the truss layout dimensions in the plans.

Assemble your first truss by laying the pieces out on a large work surface or floor in the proper order then connect them together by nailing on 2 wooden gusset plates per joint. Nail gusset plates on one side first, using 10-6d spiral shank nails per side (5 per truss end) flip over and nail on the remaining gussets in the same manner. Each interior truss assembly will have a total of 2 gusset plates.

If your truss has a rafter tail, the part that extends out over past the shed wall, don’t cut this just yet. You’ll want to cut all the rafter tails only after you have set all trusses into place.

Whether your truss has a birds beek cut where it fits on the top plate, or if it sits flush with the outer wall edges, make sure the distance where it rests down on the top plates is exactly the width of your shed. It will
probably be off a little bit, but don’t worry about this. Once you place the truss on top of the wall plates, you can push or pull the one side or the other to make it fit properly. If you are way off, then something was not cut properly and you need to recheck everything before continuing on making the rest of your trusses.

Before fitting your first truss, if you haven’t done so already, it’s a good idea to first cut a few 2x4’s that are the exact width of your shed. For example, if you are building a shed that is 12’ wide, cut about 2- 2x4’s that are exactly 12’ long. Temporarily nail these 2x4’s up at the top of your shed just under the top plates, spaced about 1/3 the length of your shed from each end of your shed. Make sure the ends of these 2x4’s are flush with the outside edges of your wall studs. If you have already installed siding, then they would butt right into the siding. This will ensure that your shed width remains exactly the width it’s supposed to be before fitting your first truss in place.

Temporary Spacer Boards

Now it’s time to try out your first truss to make sure it fits. Measure off on your top plates the locations of all your trusses. Once you have this completed, take your first truss and make sure it fits ok. If it does, congratulations! You’ve done everything right.
Making Sure First Truss Fits Properly

It’s time now to build your remaining interior trusses, and set them aside for the time being.

**Gable End Trusses**

Gable end trusses are built with the same truss dimensions you used for the interior trusses. They will also have a bottom cross board and vertical 2x4 boards coming down from the top of the truss down to the bottom cross board. The vertical boards are typically spaced the same as the wall studs in the wall underneath where the gable end truss rests.
Gable End Truss

The side of the gable end truss that faces the interior or the shed will get a wooden gusset plate up at the top of the truss, and then metal mending plates everywhere else to connect all the pieces together.

The outside of the end truss assembly gets all metal mending plates on all the connecting intersections just as the inside did.

Cut all end truss pieces and place them into their respective locations making sure everything fits and lines up properly. Also double check to make sure your bottom distance is exactly the width of your shed. Using the metal mending plates, hammer or pound these into place. Using the blunt end of a 'spud bar' is perfect for this. If you don’t have a spud bar, a good heavy sledge hammer will work just fine. You may want to have a helper stand on the pieces so they don’t move while pounding the mending plates down into place. Be careful and safe here!

Place End Trusses into Position

Position one end truss into place and nail or screw with 16d nails or 3” exterior grade screws. Make sure your wooden gusset plate is facing to
the inside of the shed. Attach the end truss at the ends and also where the vertical truss pieces meet the bottom cross board. Do this by toenailing down into the top plate from the outside of the shed. Keep this end truss into position by temporarily nailing some vertical 2x4's to the wall and end truss.

End Truss Screwed or Nailed Into Place

Place the opposite end truss into place and nail or screw it down in the same manner as the first end truss.

With the two end trusses and first truss in position, the remaining interior trusses can be positioned and nailed into place. Make sure to place them at their exact on center locations. If this step isn't done properly, your roof sheeting will not fit right.
All Trusses in Place Along with Ceiling Joists

Keep the tops of the trusses at their on center positions by temporarily nailing on 2x4’s traveling across the top of the trusses. Do this just on one side as you won’t want them to be in the way when nailing on the roof sheeting. Nail or screw into place but don’t bury the head of the nail as you will want to pull this out later when you begin to sheet the roof.

You will want to add the ceiling or loft floor joists next. The preceeding picture shows 2x4 ceiling joists. These joists get nailed to the trusses with 16d nails. Also add hurricane ties.
Side the gable ends

With the majority of the roof framing now complete, the gable ends should be sided. Once this is done, overhangs for the gable ends can be added.

For adding overhangs on the gable ends, and finishing off the shed roof, please find this information further on down in this building guide. The process is identical to what is presented for building the gable roof with a ridge board.
Building Your Gable Shed Roof with A Ridge Board and Rafters

A gable shed roof with a ridge board is somewhat similar to building this style roof with trusses. The only difference is at the top of the trusses there is a ridge board extending from one end of the roof to the other end. Rafter boards are nailed to the face of the ridge board at the top, and usually notched out at the bottom to rest on the top plate.

The wall that the rafter bottoms rest on is considered to be a load bearing wall. So any openings in the load bearing walls such as windows or doors must have headers over them.
Build The Gable End Trusses

The gable end trusses support the ridge board. This shed will have two of them, one on each end. The gable end trusses have the exact same profile as the rest of the roof will have after it is all framed up.

Start by cutting the top truss pieces, then the bottom piece, following the dimensions for the cuts off the plans. Place pieces together to form the basic shape and measure to make sure that once assembled the End truss will fit nicely over the walls top plates. The fit needs to be exact or your roof framing will be off.

Gable End Truss Assembly
Looking From the Outside
Depending on your shed plans, the dimension shown for the 'width of shed' may include the siding or it may not. So for example if you are building a 12’ wide shed, and you are checking the width of shed measurement to make sure it’s accurate, don’t forget to check to see if it should or should not include the siding thickness. On a 12’ wide shed, if the depth of the siding is to be included, the 'width of shed' measurement will be 12’1”. Or 12' plus whatever your siding depth may be if something different than 1/2” thickness.

You may have to tweek the cuts of your boards slightly to make sure your gable end truss is just right. Once you have done this, assemble the top pieces and bottom piece using metal mending plates as shown on the diagram for the gable end truss assembly.

Next measure and cut for the vertical supports and place these in your assembly and attach with metal mending plates as shown.

Measure and cut the ridge support boards and nail into place. These
boards must be placed exactly as shown in the plans as they will support the ridge board exactly where it needs to be for nailing on the rafter boards.

With the gable end truss assemblies ready to go, it’s time to attach them into place. This can be done with 3.5” exterior grade screws or 16d nails. Set one of the assemblies into place and toe-nail or screw down into the bottom truss piece through into the bottom plate every 12”

Set The Ridge Board

With the gable end trusses in place, its time to set the ridge board. The length of this board is shown in the plans but can be figured easily. As an example, if your shed is 16’ long, your measurement from the outsides of the top plates of the end walls should be exactly 16’. The gable end trusses are 1.5” thick, and you have two of them, so take 3” off your 16’ measurement and this gives you 15’9” as a length for your ridge board.

Measure and cut the ridge board and set into place. Hopefully you have a helper to help you with this task! The ridge board should fit so that the
top edges do not protrude up past the upper edges of the gable end trusses. Nail or screw the ridge board into place using 3” screws or 16d nails. Toe nail from the ridge into the gable end truss, 2 nails or screws per side.

Measure and Cut The Rafters

Before cutting the rafters, its a good idea to cut 2 or 3 -2x4's that equal the with of your shed. These temporary 'spacers' can be nailed into place at equal distances in between the walls so that your shed width measurement stays the same all along the length of your shed. You want this measurement to remain constant when setting your rafters so that they all fit properly.
Temporary Spacer Boards
Help Keep Shed Width Constant

With the ridge board set into position, and temporary spacer boards in place, its time to make the rafters.

Your plans will show the spacing of the rafters and typically roof rafters are 2’ on center. So first before cutting the rafters, measure the on center locations for the placement of the rafters on to the ridge board.

Measure and Mark On Center Locations

For the ridge board, place your tape measure on one outside end of a gable truss and measuring in make a mark at 23.25”. This will be where the outside edge of the first rafter will be placed. Keeping your tape in the same place, make marks at each 2’ on center location by marking 3/4” shy of each 2’ increment. This will place the center of each rafter exactly at the 2’ on center locations. This step must be done in this exact manner or your roof sheeting will not fit properly!

For the top plates, Basically do the same steps you did for the on center locations of the ridge board. The only difference is that you will be marking rafter locations on the top plates of the outside walls where the rafters will rest.
Following the plans, measure and cut just one rafter. The 'tails' can be cut later after all rafters are nailed or screwed into place. The 'rafter tail' is the outside end of each rafter. Place this first cut rafter into place at one of the locations you just marked off on the ridge board. Preferably next to one of the gable end trusses. The fit should be right on, but you may need to push or pull to get it to fit just right.

Take this same rafter and move it around to several locations on each side to make sure it fits ok. Once you have made any necessary adjustment to the rafter so that its fit is ok, cut the remaining rafters.

Working with one rafter at a time, and starting from one end, nail or screw the top of the rafters into place on the ridge board. Toe-nail 2-16d nails or 3" screws on one side, and 1 nail or screw on the opposite side. Do this where the rafter rests on the top plate also.

Build The Loft

The best time to build the loft is after all the main roof framing has been accomplished, but before the roof gets sheeted. Ceiling joists are also the
floor joists for the loft, and help stop the walls from spreading. It is absolutely necessary to have these on your shed. If you don’t, then you must use what’s known as a ‘collar tie’ on each set of rafters.

The following picture shows a combination of ceiling joists/loft floor joists, and collar ties used in conjunction.

Add Hurricane Ties

Most building codes require the use of hurricane ties on roof construction. These are nailed down where the bottom of the rafter rests on the top wall plate. If you are adding loft flooring you’ll want to make sure that you place the hurricane tie on the opposite side of where the floor joist for the loft is.
Hurricane Ties Are Required by Most Building Codes

Add Roof Overhangs

You will want to add siding to the gable end trusses before building and adding on the roof overhangs. Also now is a good time to cut in and add vents on the gable ends.
Roof overhangs or overlooks can be built in a couple of different ways. You may not want any overhangs on your shed and if this is the case you can skip this section.

The simplest way to build short overhangs is to cut several rafters and just nail or screw them onto the gable end trusses.
The other more complicated method of building overhangs is to make a ladder type assembly and attach to the shed roof by nailing or screwing into place.

First Ladder Overhang Assembly

The easiest method of building a ladder type overhang is to build them one at a time on the ground and then putting them up one at a time into place and attaching by nailing with 16d nails or 3” screws 2 per crosspiece minimum. Use the same rafter lengths you used to build the gable end trusses.

One Gable End Ladder
Overhang Complete
Cut All Rafter Tails

Now that you have your roof framing complete, it’s time to cut the rafter tails.

You will want to make sure that where your door is located that your rafter tails are not so long as to interfere with the opening of your doors!

The best way to cut all your rafter tails so that they all line up perfectly is to snap a line at equal distances on the ends down from the ridge.

So let’s say for example that you have determined that you want your rafter tails to extend out 3” from the wall. You have also determined that this distance is 5’2” down from the ridge. This measurement is determined by measuring down from the ridge to the point where you want to make your cut.

So on each outside end of your overhangs (or gable end truss if you don’t have overhangs) make a mark 5’2” down from the ridge.

Now using a chalk line and a helper to hold one end in place, snap a chalk line between these two marks. Do this for both sides of the roof.
Chalk Line for Cutting Rafter Tails

Using this chalk line we can now cut the rafter tails, and they will all be the same distance and all equal.

Once this chalk line is made an angle measurement for the tail cut can be made using a speed square. For example if the angle cut on the rafter tops is 55 degrees you’ll want this same cut for the rafter tails.
Use a Speed Square to
Mark The Angle Cuts

Sheeting the Roof

Once you have all the rafter tails cut, it’s time to do the roof sheeting. Typically roof sheeting is done with 1/2”x4’x8’ OSB or Plywood sheets.

When installing your roof sheets, I’ve always found it best to start at the top and work across, then down. The interior ends of your roof sheeting should always fall right on the middles of the rafters, so for your first sheet, you will want to measure from the outside of the roof framing in to the midpoint of the first rafter that will get the most out of your sheet.

Nail along the outside edge first, then you may have to pull or push the sheeting one way or the other to get it to line up across the ridge, but this will help square your roof up. Once you have it in place, nail along the top edge. If you plan on putting in a ridge vent, you can nail down some, then cut for your ridge vent, or just install the sheeting so that it is down the required distance for your vent.
Starting The Roof Sheeting

Use 6d spiral shank nails for nailing roof sheeting to roof rafters. Along the edges nail every 6”, and in the field, every 12”.

Nail on the next roof panel working your way across horizontally till you get to the end of your roof.

The next row of sheeting and all other subsequent rows of roof sheeting should have the ends staggered. You can also place roof clips along the horizontal edges of the roof sheeting in between the sheets.
Staggered Edges and Roof Clips

Detail of The Roof Clip

Finish sheeting the other side of the roof in the same way to complete the roof sheeting.
Add Roof Trim

With the roof sheeting completed, it's time to put on the roof trim. This is best done with 1x' cedar material. Depending on the size of your roof rafters you may have to trim the bottoms to make a flat edge horizontal and parallel to the ground.

Adding Cedar Roof Trim

1x' cedar roof trim can be nailed on with 6d spiral shank galvanized nails. Use 2 per rafter end, and when nailing to gable end overlooks nail every 2' using 2 nails.

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If preferred (and it is advisable!) the undersides of the soffits and eaves can be sheeted with siding or osb or plywood for weather protection and also to prevent birds from entering into the roof framing. Venting should also be done under the eaves for air flow up through the roof.

Add Roof Felt Paper and Drip Edge

With shed construction many builders do not add roof felt paper and drip edge. It was usually an additional option.

These 2 items will dramatically increase the life of your shed roof! Water, ice and snow can do so much damage to unprotected roof surfaces, and it will happen fast if you don’t add felt paper (or tar paper) and drip edge.

If you are doing a ridge vent on your roof, now is a good time to cut the roof sheeting back along the ridge if you haven’t already done so. Cut it back according to the manufacturers directions included with your ridge.
vents.

Run drip edge first along the eaves of the roof, or bottom edge of the roof. Then tack on the first row of underlayment or felt paper, going over the drip edge. Continue on up the roof with additional rows or underlayment, making sure to have at least a 3” overlap. On low pitch roofs, use a 6” overlap. I’ve found that using a hammer tacker with staples is the easiest way to put underlayment paper down. Once you have all the felt paper on, then add remaining drip edge on the rake or gable ends over the felt paper.

**Add Shingles**

The best advice I can give you on putting shingles down is to follow the manufacturers directions that are on the shingles you buy! I prefer to use dimensional shingles over 3-tab but this is just my personal preference.
Adding Cedar Trim

Add cedar trim to the outside corners of the shed will add a nice touch of character to your shed and also provide some protection to the corners.

Depending on the underside of the soffits and eaves, your corner cedar trim may have some angle cuts as shown in the picture below. You don’t have to have these corner cedar trim pieces follow those angles but it will look so much nicer if you do.

Measure down from the top edge of the siding to the bottom edge of the siding for both the front wall trim and back wall trim. Nail this corner trim so that the outside edge is flush with the siding using 8d spiral shank nails. Nail with 2 nails every 2’.

Next measure and cut for the side wall corner trim and nail into place as you did with the front wall corner trim. Make sure the corners and bottom edges are flush.
Simple Shelf Building

I usually always wait till shed construction is done before adding any shelving. That way, I can use all left over 2x4’s, osb, siding, etc for the shelf construction.

The easiest way I can tell you to add shelves to your shed would be the following:

Decide on the length and width of your shelves. I prefer going from stud to stud, but this may not always be possible.

Let’s say you want an 8’ long x 1’ wide shelf. First thing to do is build the frame for your shelf as follows:

Cut 2 - 8’ long 2x4’s, then cut 4 - 9” long support 2x4’s. Build your shelf support by lining up the back and front 8’ board and mark off 2’ on center marks for the 9” 2x4’s. Assemble and nail together with 16d box nails so they look like this:

Now, hopefully with some help, place this frame exactly where you want it, and nail from back support board into a wall stud everywhere the two meet up, using 16d nails. Cut some support boards for this shelf as such:
Now, place and nail your support boards to the wall stud and cross members of your shelf as such:

**Finished shelf frame with 45 degree support boards.**
*First shelf height usually about 34" to 36" off finished floor.*
One nice feature about building your shelves in this manner is that there are no shelf supports coming off the ground to interfere with a riding mower, etc.

If you want to add a second shelf above this, do it in this manner:

You can nail on leftover osb or plywood to complete your shelving!

The Finishing Touches

This is probably the best and most important advice I can give you for helping you give your shed some long life after you have built it. All vertical surfaces should be caulked with silicone. Latex caulk will crack over time in the weather, so use silicone. Now as of this writing, a paintable silicone caulk is available at most lumber and hardware stores.

Upper horizontal surfaces should be caulked, but I don’t recommend the lower vertical surfaces as this will just retain water. For example, if you have a window on your shed and you have trimmed it out with lets say cedar, caulk all vertical edges, and upper horizontal edges of each trim board, but not the under edge as this will hold water and moisture. You don’t want that as it causes rot over time.
Next after caulking, prime your shed with an oil based paint. I always use oil based paint, or very similar type paint product, on anything exposed to the elements outdoors, and sheds are no exception. After priming, your remaining finish coats of paint should also be oil based paint, and put at least 2 if not more coats of this on.

I can't stress this enough. Over time when wood is exposed to rain, it will rot unless you do something to deter this, and the more coats of oil based paint you can put on your shed, the better. Although not a major investment in money, you still don't want your shed to rot. Check it in the spring, and re-coat with more paint, and re-caulk if necessary.

Another nice little tip I'll give you is this. On the wooden edge of your floor that's exposed where your door way is, go buy a thin piece of aluminum angle iron and cut it to length, drill holes every foot on the top with a beveled bit, and attach to your floor. This will help immensely with keeping this area from deteriorating from moving garden equipment in and out over the lifetime of your shed or barn.

Here's an example of a piece of aluminum angle iron used for a door threshold on your shed or barn.

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I sincerely appreciate the fact that you chose my website to purchase shed and barn building plans from.

I am deeply indebted to you. Please, if you have made it this far with the construction of your shed, barn, playhouse, greenhouse or other outdoor structure, please send me an email and a picture if you don’t mind, of your newly built project. I would love to hear from you, and I will post your pictures on my website.

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Take care, and I look forward to hearing from you.

John Shank
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