




How would I build a suitable base for my new garden shed?

With any structure that is going to be erected it is essential to have a solid, level base, without this the garden building will be unstable and the lifespan with rapidly decrease.

We have put together a few guides on how to prepare a solid base for a garden shed.

-  **Concrete Base** ~ The best method if constructed correctly.
-  **Paving slabs / Block paving** ~ The simple way to get a good base.
-  **Timber Bearers** ~ Yet a simple solution that can be built onto the earth.

Upon choosing the a base to use it is very important that the end result is firm, solid and square and clear ready for us to construct the garden building.

Build A Concrete Base.

Planning of the garden shed base.






Making sure the design is suited to the garden building purchased, if you having any doubt please ask us when purchasing the garden shed.

Concrete is a mix of All in Ballast, Cement and water for the type of base these are mixed to a ratio of which:

-  1 part Cement
-  5 parts All in Ballast






All In ballast is usually sold in 40kg Bag from your local hardware retailer such as B&Q, Home base.

For Example:

-  Shed base = 8' wide x 6' long x 3' depth
-  Volume = 8' x 6' x 0.25 which equals to 12 cu ft
-  Add 1/3 for compacting = 4 cu ft
-  All in Ballast which is required = 16 cu ft
-  16 x 1.25 = 20 bags of All in Ballast












All other garden shed bases can be worked out using the same principal, there is a good rule to follow and that would be to order in generous sizes. Therefore unforeseen circumstance can be solved.

The Cement

-  1 bag of cement mixed with the All in Ballast with the ration of 1:5 makes 24 sq.ft of concrete equaling 3" thick base.
-  Or equivalent to 18sq.ft with a base of 4" thick.
-  Calculations are based on an 8 x 6 Garden shed / Garden Building.
-  3" base requires 2 bags of cement for a 8' x 6' (48 sq.ft garden shed)
-  4" base would require 3 bags of cement

Quantities for other size bases may be worked out using these figures.

The Tools Required

-  Shovel
-  Spade
-  Saw
-  Tape Measure and string (for the guides)
-  Hammer
-  Spirit Level
-  Set Square
-  A Cement Mixer for the big jobs
-  Compacter
-  Levelling beam
-  Wooden or plastic Float

PREPARATION

Make sure any over hanging trees and bushes are cut back to allow at least 12" all round the actual base, the base must be firm, level and designed to situate the floor of the selected garden shed. As previously mentioned above.

Carefully marking out the exact size of the garden shed base, maybe best making 1" bigger to allow for any shrinkage or shed size. Using wooden pegs and the string mark out the base then measuring the diagonals, if these diagonals are the same then the base is all square. After the base is cleared and dug out level and compact the ground .

For a general garden sheds a 3" bed is sufficient if most situations on soft clay. For the larger buildings making the thickness to 4" laid on a finely chopped hard-core bed, half the depth of the base should be above ground level.


Now replace the string back onto the peg and again check measurements. The string is used for positioning of the frame, which is made from 2" timber (please make sure its as deep as the base you are making)

Using a spirit level and a set square to set out the frame accurately, once this is done the frame requires to be nail / screwed to the pegs that have been driven into the ground earlier. A very important note to remember. Make sure the pegs don't protrude the top of the frame as it will make leveling a task. Check with spirit level to make sure all is level and if not rectify it now.

Mix the concrete.

If possible mix the concrete alongside the base, to make the placement of the concrete easier, other a wheel barrow will be needed. Using a plastic bucket, (3 gallon Bucket) for measuring the materials and use a separate bucket for measuring the water.

Mix well in the proportion:

-  1 Bucket of cement
-  5 buckers of All in Ballast 20mm

Add water gradually to the mix until the whole pile is uniform in colour and sufficiently workable to use. Do not make the mix too wet - this weakens the

concrete. Note how much water has been used and use the same quantity for each mix. Hire a cement mixer for making large quantities of concrete.

Placement of the concrete.

Place a layer of concrete into the frame. Compact this down with a rammer taking particular care to push the concrete into the corners and edges. Tap the sides of the form work with a hammer to help produce a solid edge to the slab. Continue placing layers of concrete into the form work and compacting until full.





Use the leveling beam with a chopping and sawing motion across the top of the slab, working from one end to the other. This action will level off the concrete, leaving it flush. After leveling, the concrete should be smoothed out with either a wooden or a plastic float - this allows the batons of the floor to sit evenly.

Concrete must not be permitted to dry out too quickly or be damaged by frost whilst wet. Cover with plastic sheeting until the concrete is hard and spray with water for several days to allow it to dry out slowly.

When base is ready, remove the fram and tidy around the base, ready for delivery of your new garden building.

How do I build with timber bearers?

TOOLS REQUIRED

-  Spade
-  Tape Measure and string
-  Spirit level
-  Shovel

Construction of the base.

Preparing any over hanging Bushes and trees and allow at least a good 12" space all round, the base must be level and solid as mentioned above in the concrete section.






Again carefully marking out the exact size which is needed for the garden shed base using markers and string, check the diagonal measurements and make sure they are correct for the size needed.

Now level and compact the ground and make it level in all directions using a spirit level. The less bumps and imperfections make the end result far superior. If possible use bricks or pavers for the bearers to sit onto, thus making it more support if

How do I lay a paving slab base?

This option is easier than the concrete but still a good end result will provide a tidy finish

Tools that are required.

-  Rubber mallet
-  Spirit level
-  Hammer
-  Spade
-  Tape measure


Putting the slabs down.

Carefully compacting the ground down, lay sand a cement a dry mix onto the prepared area, ensuring it has been raked and to be level all over from the front to the back and side to side.

All ways start in one corner and work outwards, bed the first slab down and levelling it at each corner and make sure there isn't any rocking motion. Check with spirit level, if all is well move onto the next one.




The next step is to add the remaining rows - in their correct positions. This is basically a re-run of the first row, but it is again vital to ensure that this, and each subsequent, row is perfectly in line with the original. Again this is achieved by laying a large spirit level across the gaps. The slabs must be perfectly level across the whole site in order to spread the load equally and to avoid any subsidence.

Contact information

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GUIDE INFORMATION

-  This is a Guide only if there is any part of which you do not understand or have any doubts, sheds direct would recommend contact a local builder for advice.
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