

How to Build a Concrete Shed Base

It is essential to provide a dry and level foundation before building your shed. If the shed is built on an unlevel base screw holes connecting the wall panels will not line up. There are a few different types of bases that are suitable for your shed. These include:

- A concrete base
- Paving slab base
- Treated bearer base
- Plastic shed base

Which ever method you chose we recommend that you have a 5cm (2") lip around the edge of your building.

Concrete Base

1. Decide where to position your shed but allow enough distance from fences and hedges to give you easy access to all sides. Using pegs and string to mark out the base 5cm (2") larger than the area of the building on each side. Measure both diagonals to ensure that they are the same length.
2. A concrete base requires 7.5cm (3") of compacted hardcore underneath the 7.5cm (3") concrete layer. The base can be level with the ground or raised above it. If it is to be level excavate the top earth to 15cm (6") to allow for the hardcore layer and 7.5cm (3") thickness of concrete.

Level the area with a rake and spade and remove the pegs.

3. Set up levelled framework. This involves measuring, cutting and fitting timber, to the shape of the base in order to hold the concrete.

Measure the diagonals to ensure that they are the same length. Using your spirit level ensure the framework is level, as this will determine whether your base is 100% level.

Spread a layer of well compacted hardcore and cover liberally with sand.

4. Next, mix the concrete using one part cement to five parts ballast or use bags of dry-mixed concrete to which you just add water (follow the instructions on the bag). However we recommend that you add small amounts of water as the cement needs to be on the dry side.



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Spread the concrete evenly and slightly proud of the framework. This can be then levelled off with a long straight edge of timber resting on the formwork using a sawing motion slowly over the entire surface of the freshly laid concrete.

If wet weather is forecast, cover the concrete with polythene for 24-hours. In warm weather cover the base with damp sacks and sprinkle them with water over the 24-hour period, this will ensure the drying concrete will not shrink and crack.



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