

# PREPARING YOUR CHOSEN SITE FOR YOUR NEW SHED

Placing a shed requires careful preparation to ensure it is stable, level, and durable. Here are the steps for preparing the site, along with considerations for different types of foundations:

## Site Preparation Steps

- 1. Choosing the Location:**
  - Select a flat area with good drainage to prevent water pooling around the shed.
  - Ensure there is enough space around the shed for maintenance and ventilation.
  - Check local building codes and regulations for setbacks and other requirements.
- 2. Clearing the Area:**
  - Remove any grass, rocks, debris, or plants from the site.
  - If necessary, use herbicide to prevent grass and weeds from growing back.
- 3. Measuring and Marking:**
  - Measure the dimensions of the shed and mark the perimeter with stakes and string.
  - Double-check the measurements to ensure accuracy.
- 4. Excavation:**
  - Excavate the marked area to a depth of 4-6 inches (for most foundation types).
  - Ensure the bottom of the excavation is level.



## Site Leveling

- Use a long straight board (screed) and a level to check and adjust the surface.
- Fill low spots and remove high spots to create a uniformly level surface.



## Foundation Options

### 1. Gravel Foundation:

- **Preparation:** Excavate the area and lay a geotextile fabric to prevent weed growth.
- **Installation:** Spread and compact a 4-6 inch layer of crushed stone or gravel.
- **Benefits:** Good drainage, relatively easy to install, cost-effective.



### 2. Concrete Foundation:

- **Preparation:** Excavate the area and build formwork to contain the concrete.
- **Installation:** Pour a 4-6 inch thick concrete slab and smooth the surface.
- **Benefits:** Very stable and durable, low maintenance, suitable for larger sheds.



### 3. Wood Foundation:

- **Preparation:** Excavate the area and lay gravel for drainage.
- **Installation:** Construct a wooden frame using pressure-treated lumber and fill with gravel or compacted soil.
- **Benefits:** Easier to build, can be moved if necessary, provides good airflow under the shed.



### 4. Concrete Blocks:

- **Preparation:** Excavate small areas for each block and fill with gravel.
- **Installation:** Place concrete blocks at regular intervals, ensuring they are level.
- **Benefits:** Cost-effective, allows for air circulation, relatively easy to adjust.



### 5. Dirt or Grass:

- **Preparation:** Clear the area of grass and level the ground.
- **Installation:** Place the shed directly on the leveled ground (not recommended for long-term stability).
- **Benefits:** Minimal preparation, lowest cost.
- **Drawbacks:** Poor stability, prone to moisture problems, not durable.



## Final Steps

1. **Anchoring:**
  - Secure the shed to the foundation using appropriate anchors or fasteners to prevent shifting or wind damage.
2. **Finishing Touches:**
  - Add any additional features such as ramps, steps, or landscaping around the shed.

By following these steps and choosing the appropriate foundation, you can ensure your shed is securely and properly installed for long-term use.

