



How do I prepare my site?

Our suggestions for selecting the best site and getting it ready for your Apex Shed

Site Selection

- **Site Spacing:** When selecting the best site for your shed, please keep in mind that we need to be able to get all the way around the shed during the building process in order to properly attach the siding and trim. WE REQUIRE a minimum of 18" of workspace on all sides of the shed. Although 2' is preferred. Tall Barn and Super Barn sheds require a MINIMUM of 24" work space on all sides of the shed but 3' is preferred. In some cases (for an additional cost), we may be able to move a shed closer to a fence or other structure after it has been built. However, moving a shed into a corner is usually very difficult and may not be possible. If you would like your shed moved after it is built please bring it to our attention before our crew arrives so we can let you know if it is possible and what the moving fee will be.
- **Site Leveling:** It is IMPORTANT that your site be level. Your shed will only be as level as the ground or foundation that it sits on. If your ground is not level, we recommend using gravel to bring the site to level. NEVER ASSUME that your ground is level by simply looking at it. We strongly recommend using a level on top of a board to check for the levelness of the site. Our crews will do their best to make sure your floor is as close to level as possible however, if more than 20 minutes of labor is required to do so, you will be charged for leveling and site preparation. **If your shed will be installed on concrete**, you need to check your concrete pad for level. The shed will only be as level as the concrete unless we shim it to make it level. Depending on the amount of shimming, an additional cost will be added to your final invoice. If you provide sufficient materials to shim the floor it will reduce or possibly eliminate this added cost.

Gravel Base

- **Why Gravel?** A gravel base is highly recommended for a shed foundation. A level gravel pad will give full support for your shed floor while allowing for moisture drainage as well as air flow underneath the shed. This will eliminate condensation problems under the shed to ensure that your shed floor will last a lifetime. Our floor joists have a Lifetime ground contact warranty and can sit on dirt, gravel or concrete but a gravel base is always preferred. We suggest using 3/4" minus or 1" minus crushed rock gravel. Larger gravel can be difficult to move or level, and smaller gravel shifts too much to provide a solid foundation.
- **Gravel Thickness:** We recommend 2 to 4 inches of gravel. You may have little to no gravel on one end and maybe 6" or more on the other end to make the site level. Use the gravel to do most of your site leveling. We suggest retaining your gravel if possible. Use Pressure treated 4X4s, bricks, curbing, railroad ties, etc. This is not required but makes the site clean and neat.
- **Gravel Pad Size:** We suggest making your gravel pad larger than the shed. We typically recommend 18 to 24 inches all the way around. This allows you to direct sprinklers farther from the shed so that they aren't constantly spraying the shed.

REMEMBER to make sure your gravel pad is level by using a level on top of a board.

DO NOT ASSUME it is level because it looks flat and level.

*** A gravel pad that is out of level may result in additional charges for leveling and site preparation.

Turn over for more suggestions >>>

Site Preparation Continued

Concrete Base

- **Concrete Floor:** If you are wanting your shed to have a concrete floor it is extremely important that your concrete meet the following specifications.
 - **LEVEL:** The concrete slab must be LEVEL. We CANNOT attach a shed to a cement slab that is not level.
 - **SIZE:** The slab should be the EXACT same size as the shed. If your cement slab is larger than your shed, water will puddle on the concrete and will find a way under your walls and into the shed regardless of how much you caulk or seal the bottom plate.
 - **SQUARE:** Your slab must be square. If your slab is the same size of the shed but is not square, we cannot attach to the concrete. A shed is built square and if the concrete is not, it will not line up with the concrete.
 - **DOES NOT MEET SPECS:** If your concrete does not meet these specifications, we recommend NOT using the concrete as the floor. Instead, install a shed with a floor.
 - **PRICING?:** There is no discount for using your concrete as the floor of a shed. We will provide wedge anchors to attach the walls to the concrete and we will put a pressure treated bottom plate on the walls to prevent rotting. The labor to glue, drill and bolt the walls to the concrete is nearly 4 times what it takes to build our floor and attach the walls to it. Thus, what little is saved in materials is offset by the cost of labor to attach to the concrete.
- **Concrete Base under shed floor:** If you plan on placing your shed on top of a concrete slab, please note that the shed will only be as level as the concrete. Concrete next to your home is usually poured with a slope for runoff. DO NOT ASSUME that your concrete is level because it *looks* level or *appears* flat! Please check it with a level and plan accordingly. If your concrete is not level, often, we can shim the shed to level it. If you provide shimming materials, (2X4 blocks, bricks, pavers or other materials), there will not be an additional charge for shimming unless excess labor is required. If you do not want to shim the shed, we can cut the floor joists to the slope of the concrete. There is an additional charge for this of at least \$2 per square ft. and it is imperative that we know the direction and the approximate amount of the slope before we come to install the shed.

Other Foundation Ideas

- **Wood Base or Concrete Blocks** (Railroad Ties, Pressure Treated 4X4s or Paving stones / Concrete blocks): You may place your shed on top of pressure treated 4X4s or Railroad ties that act as runners under the shed. These should run perpendicular to the floor joists and run the longest length of the shed and they must be level. We recommend three rows of these runners to support the floor joists the full length of the shed. These must be level before we place the shed on them. Leveling these is not included in the price of your shed. If you are using Concrete Blocks or Pavers, we recommend having enough in place to support all the floor joists not just the corners. We ask that this type of foundation be ready and in place before we arrive to install your shed. If your ground is level and you want us to place the shed on top of blocks, please provide enough blocks to support all of the floor joists and the corners plus a few extra just in case. There will usually be no extra charge for this unless the labor to do so is more than 20 minutes.
- **Dirt or grass:** A shed can be placed on dirt or grass, and our floor joists are treated for this and should not rot. However, we do not recommend this. Due to moisture in the ground under and around the shed, you may have problems with condensation under the shed that can damage the floor sheeting. However, It is important that the site is level and clean. **We will not warranty a floor on grass or dirt due to this problem.**

If you have any other questions, please check out our website or call us for more information

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