

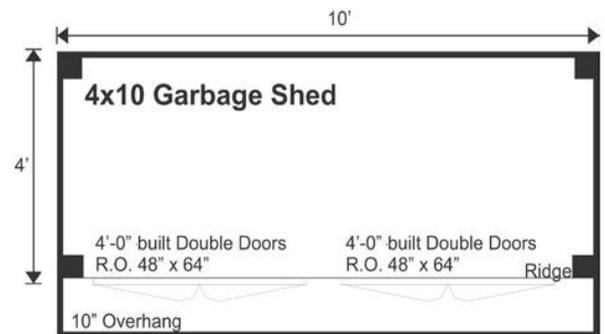


## Bearicuda Inc.

3 West Street, Litchfield, CT 06759  
Phone: 1-877-232-7428 Fax 860-361-6442

### 4x10 Garbage Shed - Introduction

Thank you for choosing Bearicuda. We are confident that you will truly enjoy this project. Take your time, read these instructions all the way through and study the drawings. Gather your tools and materials and read these instructions and study the drawings again. Take note of the half-lap joints in the upper corners and especially the 4x4 side beams where they meet the two front posts. We use rough-cut full dimension hemlock for our framing and eastern white pine for everything else (except floors). This native rough-sawn lumber can and does vary in size and width. A 1/4" difference is not uncommon. Such lumber may not be available in your area. If you are experiencing difficulty finding the lumber or if you are just short on time, pre-cut lumber packages for these plans are possible through Bearicuda Inc. Contact us for a quote for a pre cut lumber package.



One rule of thumb we have here is that every building we turn out is unique – in some ways reflecting the personalities of the craftsmen who build them. The same is true for your building. Have fun and send us a picture when you're done!

Contact us for a quote for a pre cut lumber package.

#### Site Preparation

In order to preserve your new building Bearicuda recommends that the site be prepared with a bed of gravel 3-4" deep, as level as possible, and a foot larger than the building on all sides. Water drainage is the concern. Keep the moisture coming from the land and roof from going under the building. Airflow is essential do not stack clutter around the

Please contact us with any mistakes or discrepancies in these plans.

We strive to provide our clients with a quality product and encourage feedback.

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<http://www.Bearicuda.com>

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## Questions?

Technical support  
Toll FREE 877-232-7428



## Getting Started

Begin by locating your plans. You will find the plans attached to the outside of your kit. The most important parts of your plans are the color coded cutlist and exploded view. Use these to organize your kit by color. Lay out pieces and pile into color coded sections, this will save much time and help you familiarize and identify your pieces.



# Proper Handling and Care of Your Kit

*Before beginning assembly please read these important recommendations*

**Accepting Delivery** The label tags attached to each part inform the assembler what and where the part fits, take care not to lose the labels; it will save time and effort.

When accepting delivery, be sure to check the kit over for damage. Any damage should be detailed on the bill of lading before the driver leaves. For damaged or missing parts, please contact our office as soon as possible. If your kit arrives extremely damaged, you may refuse shipment. We recommend contacting a member of our client care team who will help you determine if this is the right course of action before sending the truck away.

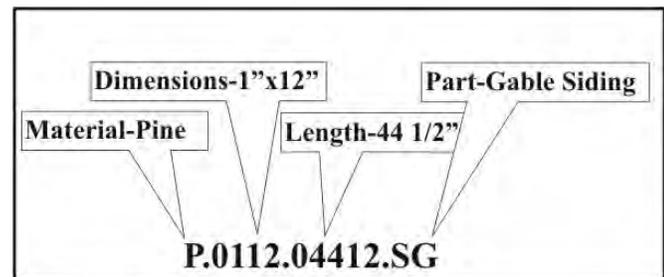
**Take care not to lose the labels; it will save time and effort.**

## Storing your kit

Bearicuda makes every effort to ship your kit as close to assembly time as possible, however, if you do have to store your kit for a time before assembly, please follow these simple recommendations:

1. Do not store kit in high humidity
2. If possible do not break the bands until ready to build
3. Keep doors and windows out of weather
4. Do not allow the battens to sit in the sun or rain
5. Kit is covered with a tarp and may be stacked and stored outside.

Color Code
Floor
Wall
Siding
Roof
Trim
Loft
Bracing



## Reading the Part Number

Read the part numbers as shown above right beginning with the material, then the dimensions, length and what the part is. The first three digits of the length are always the whole number and the last two digits are always the fraction. These part numbers will coincide with your cutlist and exploded view.

## Taking Inventory

Before assembling your project, take an inventory of your parts. Be careful not to lose the coded part number tags, as these will tell you what and where the piece fits. These labels coordinate to an exploded view (sample shown above left) and the cut list that is included with your plans.

If, after taking inventory and organizing, you discover there are pieces missing, please contact our office with a list of missing part numbers. Some extra material has been included in your kit to allow for mistakes or missing pieces. We do ask that you begin assembly and continue as far as you can before requesting additional material.



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### Safety with tools

**DOING JOBS YOURSELF AROUND THE HOME CAN BE FUN AND SAVE MONEY. BUT TRAGICALLY, PEOPLE ARE INJURED AND KILLED DOING DIY EVERY YEAR. IT'S EASY TO AVOID ACCIDENTS.**

It's not just about having the right tools, but knowing how to use them correctly.

### Be prepared

***Fact:** Reading the instructions are guaranteed to save time in the long run.*

#### **"SHOULD I GIVE IT A GO?"**

Before you start any job, you need to weigh it up and decide whether to go ahead. Ask yourself:

Is it something I can take on myself?  
Do I have the right tools and protective equipment?  
Do I need to get in the experts?

Cutting corners could mean putting yourself at risk, it can end up costing more than you think. NEVER underestimate the difficulty of the job, especially if you are unfit or nervous about heights - get someone else to do it.

If you decide to take on a DIY project, however small:

- Don't rush or take short-cuts. Take the time the job needs.
- Never think it's a waste of time reading the instructions.

**USE THE RIGHT TOOLS AND PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT FOR THE JOB. "MAKING DO" WON'T DO.**

#### **TOP TIP:**

Some jobs must be left to the experts. Get someone qualified for tasks involving gas, or any major electrical or building works and ask them for a free estimate.

Thank you for your interest in Bearicuda Inc. Your business is appreciated.  
Please contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

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## 4x10 Garbage Shed -Materials List

### Shopping List

#### Framing

Two	Hemlock	4x6x10'	Skids
Eight	Hemlock	2x6x8'	Floor joists, Rafters, Partition
Two	Hemlock	2x6x10'	Rim joists
Eight	Hemlock	1x6x10'	Floor Boards,
Six	Hemlock	4x4x8'	Posts, braces
Two	Hemlock	4x4x10'	Beams
Ten	Hemlock	1x4x8'	Roof strapping, temporary bracing
Two	Hemlock	2x4x10'	Wall Nailers
One	Hemlock	2x4x12'	Door Studs
Two	Hemlock	2x4x8'	Wall Framing

#### Siding

One	Pine	1x6x10'	Ledger Board (ridge pole)
Eight	Pine	1x12x10'	Bearing wall Siding
Eight	Pine	1x12x8'	Siding
Two	Pine	1x12'x12'	Siding

#### Trim

Two	Pine	1x8x12'	Fascia
Three	Pine	1x8x8'	Fascia, Siding
Four	Pine	1x4x10'	Corner
Twelve	Pine	1x4x8'	door, shadow trim
Three	Pine	1x4x10'	door, shadow trim, corner
Three	Pine	1x5x8'	Door Casing
One	Pine	1x7x10'	Kick Plate

#### Hardware

Nails 5lbs 3 1/2" spikes (16's) 5 lbs 2" galvanized (6's)  
 Corrugated Metal Roofing choice of color  
 Four sheets @ 18"  
 Four sheets @ 68"  
 147" of matching ridge cap  
 125 1 1/2" wood grip screws with rubber gasket, matching color to roof  
 One 1/4" Hex drive bit for roofing screws  
 Optional one square feet of roofing material, wood shingles, metal, asphalt, slate  
 Optional if roofing material other than metal is used the roof should be sheathed solid, add seven pine 1x12'x10'

An allowance for mistakes and waste has been included

### Suggested Tools

Hammer  
 Pencil  
 Tape measure  
 Razor Knife  
 Chalk Line  
 Speed Square  
 Extension Cord  
 Circular Saw  
 4 foot level  
 Cordless drill  
 Philips bit 1/4" drive for roofing screws  
 Tin Snips

Please contact us with any mistakes or discrepancies in these plans. We strive to provide our clients with a quality product and encourage feedback.



Hardware Package

**Contact us today to purchase a Hardware Package to match this set of plans.**



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### 4x10 Garbage Shed -Specifications

Wall Height	Front	80''	Rear	50''
Salt Box rafters	Front	8/12	16''	
	Rear	8/12		
		Plumb cut to seat cut 57 3/4''	Plumb cut to Tail 67 3/4''	
Metal Lengths	Front	19''	Rear	74''

#### Floor Frame

Deck size exactly 4'x10' or in inches 48"x120"  
4x6 skids held in 4" from each side, cut at 10'  
2x6 floor joists 24" on center  
1" hemlock board floor

#### Wall Framing

Wall height from top of flooring to top of top plate (see measurements above)  
Front Doors Two Rough Openings 48" Wide x 64" Tall  
4x4 Post and Beam frame  
1/2 lap corners and joints and  
45-degree braces approx. 30" long to long use scrap, 2x4 or 4x4  
Braces are installed after the frame as been plumbed  
No bottom plate, blind nail posts when possible  
One row of 2x4 nailers to hold siding in place centered at 24"

#### Plumb the Walls

Level the building before attempting to plumb the walls  
Temporary bracing  
Nail a brace from top plate to post on floor on each wall  
Tie the building together so rafters do not spread the walls apart  
Walls are properly braced when it is possible to walk on them

#### Siding (1x8 ship lapped siding rough out can be substituted for board siding)

1" rough sawn random width pine Board Siding  
Horizontal nailers for vertical siding  
Allow siding to hang below rim joists a 1/4"  
Side bearing walls before the rafters are set, smallest siding board 1x6  
Run siding wild and cut in place

#### Rafters

2x6 Rafters 24" on center  
1x4 or 5 Roof strapping 20" on center hold top course down 2" for ridge cap screwing

#### Roofing

Corrugated metal roofing, screws and ridge cap  
Metal roofing can be cut with a metal cutting blade in a skill saw.  
Screw the flats, each ridge on the over laps and every ridge on the ridge cap  
Corrugated metal 1-2" overhang on all sides ridge cap is the same

Framing the deck  
Tips:

Level the deck before attempting to plumb the walls

Before installing the floorboards square the deck by measuring diagonally from corner to corner. The deck is square when the two measurements are the same.



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*NOTE: A nail's strength is based on its length and diameter. Based on a number of variables, including moisture content and material type, use our nailing recommendations as a guide only.*

## 4x10 Garbage Shed - Hardware

This building is fastened together using a variety of nails and screws. Please use this page as a guide to what to use where.

The 16d framing nail, Figure 1, should be used for all framing of flooring, walls and rafters. Wherever there is 2" or 4" material and the nail will not be exposed to the elements, the 16d framing nail should be used.

The 6d galvanized nail, Figure 2, should be used for the siding and 1" trim. Wherever there is 1" material that will be exposed to the elements, the 6d galvanized nail should be used.

The roofing screws, Figure 3, are used to apply the metal roofing and should match your roof color. The longer of the two roofing screws should be used for the ridge cap. The 1/4" nut driver, Figure 4, is the driver necessary for the roofing screws.



16d Framing Nail  
Figure 1



6d Galvanized Nail Figure 2



Roofing Screws Figure 3



1/4" Nut Driver Figure 4

**NOTE: Please look for the packing slip attached to your kit. The packing slip supplies notes and any substitutions that the cutters may have made.**

Part Number	Init.	Part Description	Material	Qty.	Dim.	Length	Angle	Notes
<b>FLOOR - Blue</b>								
H.0406.12000.SK		Skids	Hemlock	2	4x6	120	45	45 both ends 1.5" down from top
H.0206.12000.RJ		Rim Joist	Hemlock	2	2x6	120	90	Mark crown up, layout 24" on center
H.0206.04400.FJ		Joist Floor	Hemlock	6	2x6	44	90	Mark crown up
X.0408.09600.FM		3/4 CDX	3/4" Plywood	1	4x8	96	90	Full Sheet
X.0204.04800.FM		3/4 CDX	3/4" Plywood	1	2x4	48	90	24"x48" Sheet
<b>WALLS - Red</b>								
H.0404.12000.BE		Beam Front Top	Hemlock	1	4x4	120	90	Use straightest possible lumber layout 24" on center
H.0404.12000.BE		Beam Rear Top	Hemlock	1	4x4	120	90	
Use straightest possible lumber 1/2 lap both ends. Layout 24" on center.								
H.0404.04600.WP		Post Rear	Hemlock	2	4x4	46	90	Mark bottom of posts. Layout 21"-23" all sides.
H.0404.07600.WP		Post Front	Hemlock	2	4x4	76	90	Mark bottom of posts. 2"x4" Notch 46"-50". Layout 21"-23" all sides
H.0404.04800.G1		Beam Gable 1	Hemlock	1	4x4	48	90	Use straightest possible lumber 1/2 lap 90 saltbox style. Beam Gable 1 opposite Beam Gable 2.
H.0404.04800.G2		Beam Gable 2	Hemlock	1	4x4	48	90	
Use straightest possible lumber 1/2 lap 90 saltbox style. Beam Gable 2 opposite Beam Gable 1								
H.0404.02400.AB		Angle Brace	Hemlock	6	4x4	24	45	Long point to long point
H.0404.03000.AB		Angle Brace	Hemlock	2	4x4	30	45	Long point to long point
H.0204.04000.WN		Nailer Gable	Hemlock	2	2x4	40	90	
H.0204.11200.DH		Door Header	Hemlock	1	2x4	112	90	Layout 50"-52" and 60"-62"
H.0204.06400.DP		Door Post	Hemlock	4	2x4	64	90	
H.0204.00800.DB		Door Blocking	Hemlock	3	2x4	8	90	
<b>SIDING - Green</b>								
P.0112.05714.SI		Siding Rear	Pine	10	1x12	57-1/4	90	
P.0106.09300.SI		Siding Front	Pine	2	1x6	93	90	
P.0112.09300.SI		Siding Front	Pine	1	1x12	93	90	
P.0112.02100.SI		Siding Front	Pine	8	1x12	21	90	

Part Number	Init.	Part Description	Material	Qty.	Dim.	Length	Angle	Notes
P.0112.07000.SI		Siding Gable	Pine	2	1x12	70	34	Long point to square
P.0112.07800.SI		Siding Gable	Pine	2	1x12	78	34	Long point to square
P.0112.08600.SI		Siding Gable	Pine	2	1x12	86	34	Long point to square
P.0112.09400.SI		Siding Gable	Pine	2	1x12	94	34	Long point to square
P.0112.01200.SI		Siding Gable	Pine	2	1x12	12	34	Long point to square
P.3402.04900.BT		Battens Rear Wall	Pine	9	3/4x2	49	90	
P.3402.00900.BT		Battens Above Door	Pine	10	3/4x2	9	90	
P.3402.06200.BT		Battens Gable End	Pine	2	3/4x2	62	34	Long point to square
P.3402.07000.BT		Battens Gable End	Pine	2	3/4x2	70	34	Long point to square
P.3402.07800.BT		Battens Gable End	Pine	2	3/4x2	78	34	Long point to square
<b>ROOF - Orange</b>								
H.0206.06734.RA		Rafter Rear	Hemlock	6	2x6	67-3/4	34	Mark crown up. Trace template
H.0206.01500.RA		Rafter Front	Hemlock	6	2x6	15	34	
H.0104.12000.RS		Roof Strapping	Hemlock	6	1x4	120	90	May be pieced in 2' increments
H.0204.00912.RA		Rafter Supports	Hemlock	4	2x4	9-1/2	56	Long point to square
P.0108.12000.LB		Ledger Board	Pine	1	1x8	120	90	Layout 24" on center one side
P.0110.02178.BB		Bird Blocking	Pine	2	1x10	21-7/8	90	
P.0110.02078.BB		Bird Blocking	Pine	3	1x10	20-7/8	90	
<b>TRIM - Yellow</b>								
P.0108.05100.FT		Fascia Bearing	Pine	2	1x8	51	90	
P.0108.07200.FT		Fascia Bearing	Pine	2	1x8	72	90	
P.0108.01612.FT		Fascia Gable Front	Pine	2	1x8	16-1/2	34	Long point to short point
P.0108.07138.FT		Fascia Gable Rear	Pine	2	1x8	71-3/8	34	Long point to short point
P.0104.01700.ST		Shadow Gable Front	Pine	2	1x4	17	34	Long point to short point
P.0104.07300.ST		Shadow Gable Rear	Pine	2	1x4	73	34	Long point to short point
P.0104.07500.ST		Shadow Bearing	Pine	2	1x4	75	90	
P.0104.05200.ST		Shadow Bearing	Pine	2	1x4	52	90	
P.0104.08700.CT		Corner Gable	Pine	2	1x4	87	34	Long point to square
P.0104.05500.CT		Corner Gable	Pine	2	1x4	55	34	Long point to square
P.0104.05400.CT		Corner Bearing	Pine	2	1x4	54	90	
P.0104.08000.CT		Corner Bearing	Pine	2	1x4	80	90	
P.0104.05600.DT		Door Trim	Pine	2	1x4	56	90	Attach Plaque and Center
P.0104.07100.DT		Door Trim	Pine	4	1x4	71	90	
P.0102.06300.DT		Door Stop Sides	Pine	4	1x2	63	90	
P.0102.04800.DT		Door Stop Top	Pine	2	1x2	48	90	

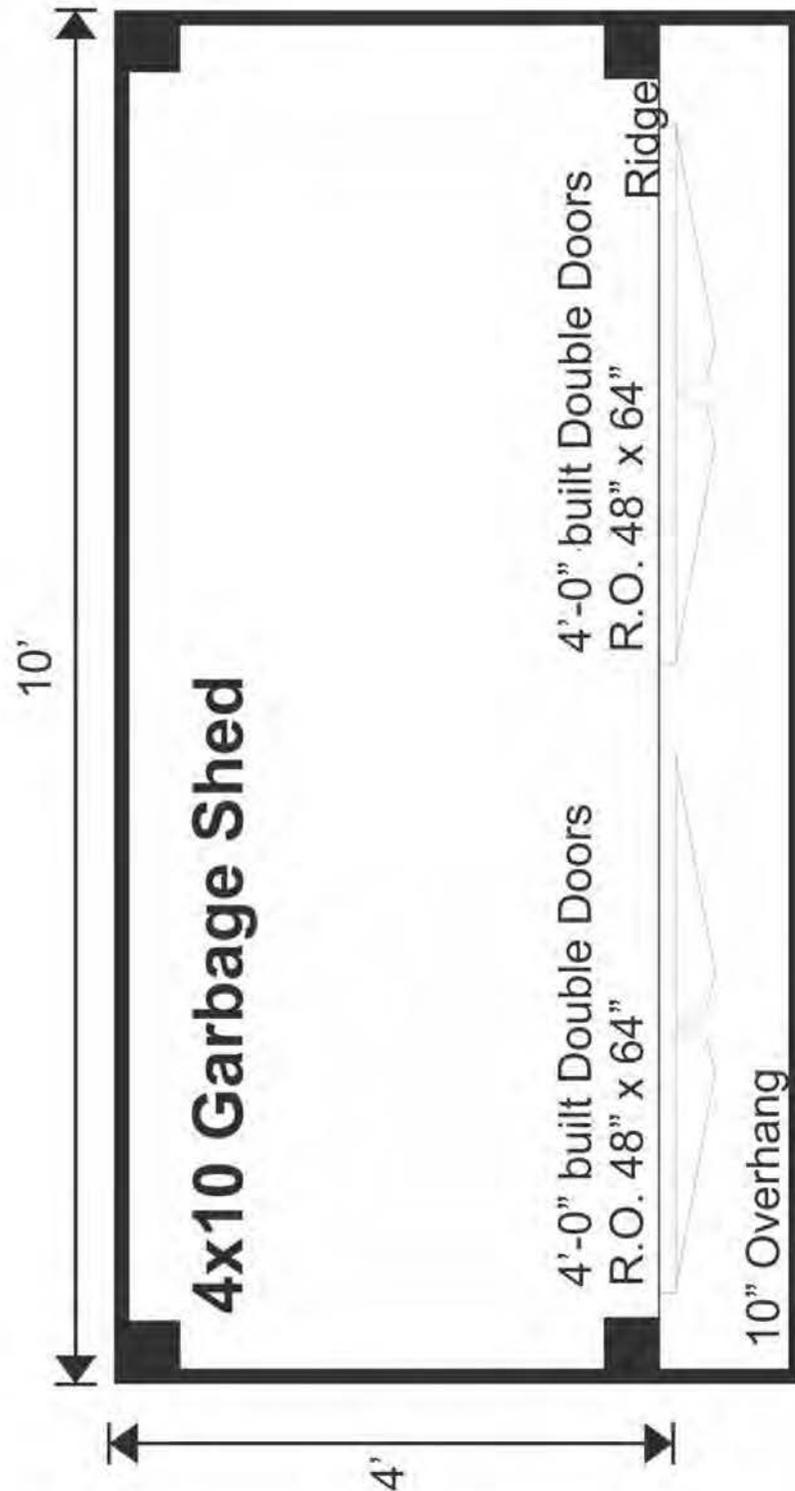
Part Number	Init.	Part Description	Material	Qty.	Dim.	Length	Angle	Notes
<b>EXTRA - Brown</b>								
H.0104.05600.TB		Temporary Bracing	Hemlock	2	1x4	56	45	Long point to short point
H.0104.11600.TB		Temporary Bracing	Hemlock	2	1x4	116	45	Long point to short point
P.0112.12000.EL		Extra lumber	Pine	1	1x12	120	90	

Part Number	Init.	Part Description	Qty.	Length	Notes
<b>Millwork</b>					
P.0203.07138.DR		Double Door	2	63-7/8	Garbage Shed Doors: 2@63-7/8x23-1/4 and 2@63-7/8x23-3/4
<b>Hardware</b>					
PLANS		Assembly Instructions	1		
FN.16D		16d Framing Nails	5lbs	3	5 lbs
6D		6d HDG Hand Nails Galvanized	5 lbs	2	5 lbs
RFNG.SCR		Roofing Screws	125	1-1/2	Match roof color
1/4.NT.DRV		1/4" Hex Bit	1		
TRN.LATCH.BLK		Turn Latch Black	2		
#2.SQR.DRV.BIT		#2 Square Drive Bit	1		
HING.8		Door Hinge Black	4		
FT.BOLT		Foot Bolt	2		
CH.BOLT		Chain Bolt	2		
HING.SCRW.2		Door Hinge Screws Black	80		Square drive screws for turn latch and door hinges
<b>Roofing</b>					
MTL.ROOF.F		Metal Roof Front	4	19	
MTL.ROOF.R		Metal Roof Rear	4	74	Over lap 2 ribs, finish with a 1" gable end overhang
RIDGE.CAP		Ridge Cap	1	51	Match to roof color
RIDGE.CAP		Ridge Cap	1	96	Match to roof color



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### 4x10 Garbage Shed – Floor Plan



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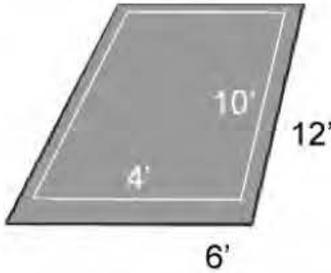


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## 4x10 Garbage Shed - Site Preparation

Lay a 3" to 4" deep gravel bed.  
 Keep it level within 6".



Set the gravel a foot larger than the building.

Figure 1

Position 6 cement blocks to form a rough 3'x9' rectangle.

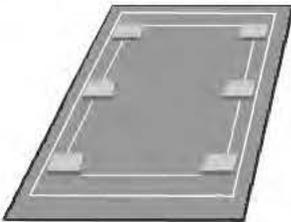


Figure 2

Skids ends are cut on 45-degree angle and 1.5" down from top.



Figure 3

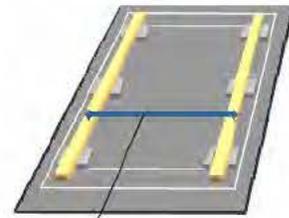
**Step 1.** In order to preserve your new building, Bearicuda recommends that the site be prepared with a bed of gravel 3-4" deep, as level as possible and a foot larger than the building on all sides. Figure 1. We recommend the site be leveled with a transit. Water drainage is the concern. Keep the moisture coming from the land and roof from going under the building. Airflow is essential. Do not stack clutter around the building. If you are installing a ramp on your building, it is also important to level the ramp area. If the area where the ramp will sit is not level with the rest of the building, the ramp will not fit correctly.

**Step 2.** Set building on six points; position the 4"x8"x16" solid cement blocks proportionately to bear the weight. These blocks should form a rough 3'x9' rectangle for the building to sit on. Position the cement blocks perpendicular to the skids to better bear the weight. Figure 2. Consult the pier configuration in the following pages.

**Step 3.** Cut the skids to exactly 120". Cut the 45 degree angles in the end of each skid as shown in Figure 3. These are rough cuts that can be done with a chainsaw.

**Step 4.** Once the 4x6 hemlock skids are cut, position them onto the blocks. They should rest 4" inside of the rim joists as shown in figure 4. Place the skids so that the angled cut is facing down as shown in figure 3. You'll set them to measurement later so place them roughly into position. The skid's length will match the building's length. Do not level the skids at this time. The entire deck can be leveled before the plywood floor is installed.

Position skids on blocks.



Outer edge to outer edge 40"

Figure 4



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### Optional Concrete Slab

**Step 1.** You may also use a concrete slab for your building to sit on. Begin with a prepared compacted gravel pad. Figure 1. Your gravel pad should be at least a foot larger than the concrete pad on all sides. For example, if your concrete pad will be 192" x 240", your gravel pad should be 216"x264" square and level. We recommend using a transit to level your site.

**Step 2.** Build your form. Figure 2. The form will be the barrier that will stop your concrete from spreading, so the interior dimensions of the form should be the exact dimensions of the building. For example, for a 16x20 Vermont Cottage, the interior dimensions of your forms should be 192"x240".

**Step 3.** Once your form is created, it will need to be squared. To square your frame, measure diagonally from corner to corner. When the measurements are equal, the frame is squared. Brace your squared frame by nailing a piece of lumber from corner to corner on top of the form. This will keep your frame squared until it is pegged.

**Step 4.** Continue by hammering 2x2 pointed pegs at 3' intervals against the exterior of the form. Figure 3.

**Step 5.** Dig a trench around the interior of the form. Trench should be approximately 12" wide and 8" deep. This will act as a footing, giving the perimeter of the slab more depth and strength, as it will be supporting your building walls. If your building calls for a third, center, skid, dig a center trench 12" wide by 8" deep, so the concrete will be thicker to support this third skid as well.

**Step 6.** Lay a 6 millimeter vapor barrier on top of the gravel pad inside your form. The vapor barrier should extend along the entire bottom of your pad, into your trenches and up the sides to the top of your form.

**Step 7.** Reinforce your pad with wire mesh. Cut the pieces of the steel wire mesh to length. The pieces should be cut so that, when in place, the edges will be 3 inches away from the form. To eliminate the mesh curl, flip the mesh sheet over and place it in the form opposite the way it was rolled up. Overlap each mesh sheet and twist the cut ends together to join them. Space bricks out evenly under the mesh throughout the form. Be sure the edges of the mesh are at least 3 inches away from the form.



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3



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## Optional Concrete Slab continued

**Step 8.** Before pouring your concrete, bring any services to the building through the slab, such as water, heat and/or electrical.

**Step 9.** You are now ready to pour your concrete. Your concrete slab should be 12"x12" around the exterior edges, and under any additional skids, and reinforced with wire mesh. The rest of the slab should be 4" thick. Figure 4.

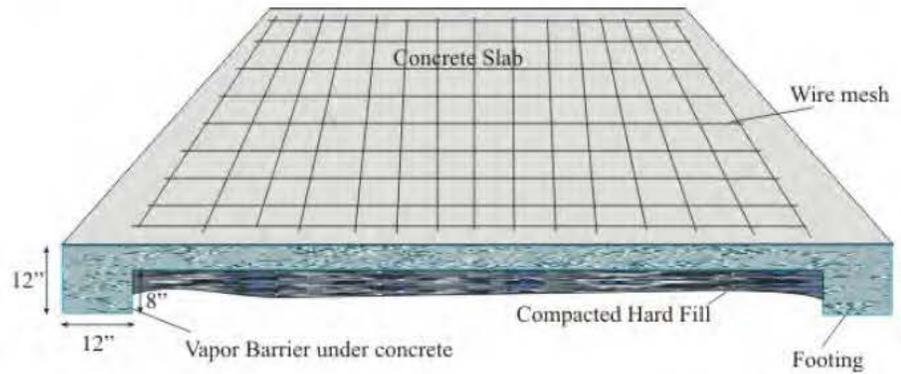


Figure 4

**Step 10.** Once the concrete has cured, usually 1-3 days, remove the forms and the slab will be ready to build on. Figure 5.

*\*NOTE* If you desire, skids can be replaced with treated 2x6 sill plates around exterior and where the skids would sit. Figure 6. If you are in an area prone to earthquakes or high winds, you may wish to anchor your cottage to your concrete slab. There are a number of anchor solutions including the anchor bolt, steel flat plate and mud sill anchor. Figure 7.



Figure 5

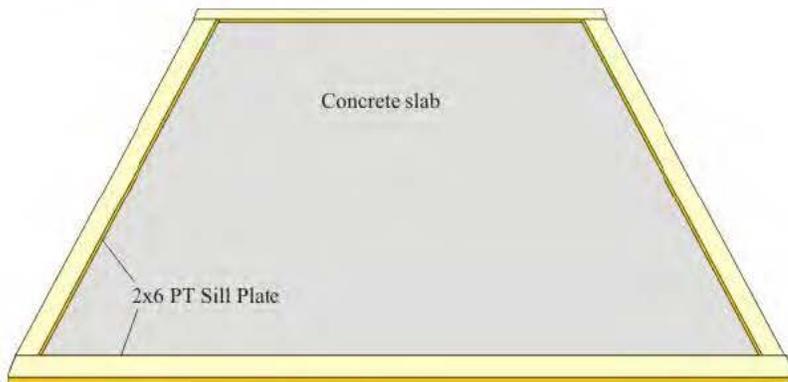


Figure 6

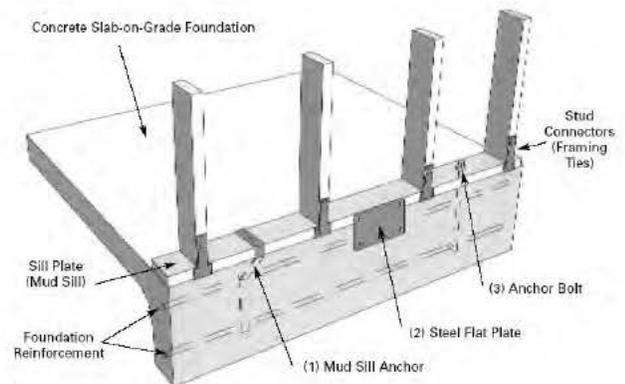


Figure 7 Attaching shed walls to slab without a floor system.



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## 4x10 Garbage Shed - Pier Configuration

Bearicuda recommends a gravel bed and cement blocks as shown in the previous page. If, however, you choose to use concrete piers for your foundation, follow this pier schematic for proper placement. Figure 1.

Install your footings below the frost line to avoid potential movement. We recommend digging down 48".

Ensure you are placing the footing form on solid ground. The more solid the ground, the less likely movement will occur. We recommend 8" piers.

Level and square your piers. It is very important to keep the piers square and level. We recommend using a transit when setting the supports. A deck that is out of level or square will cause the entire building to be untrue. An untrue building will effect the installation of floor, siding and roof materials making the building process difficult.

Skids may be anchored to the piers using 4' metal straps. Figure 2.

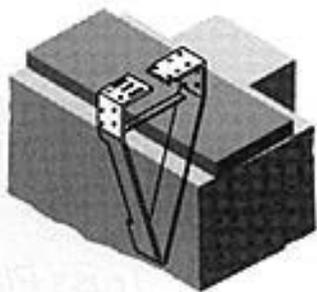


Figure 2

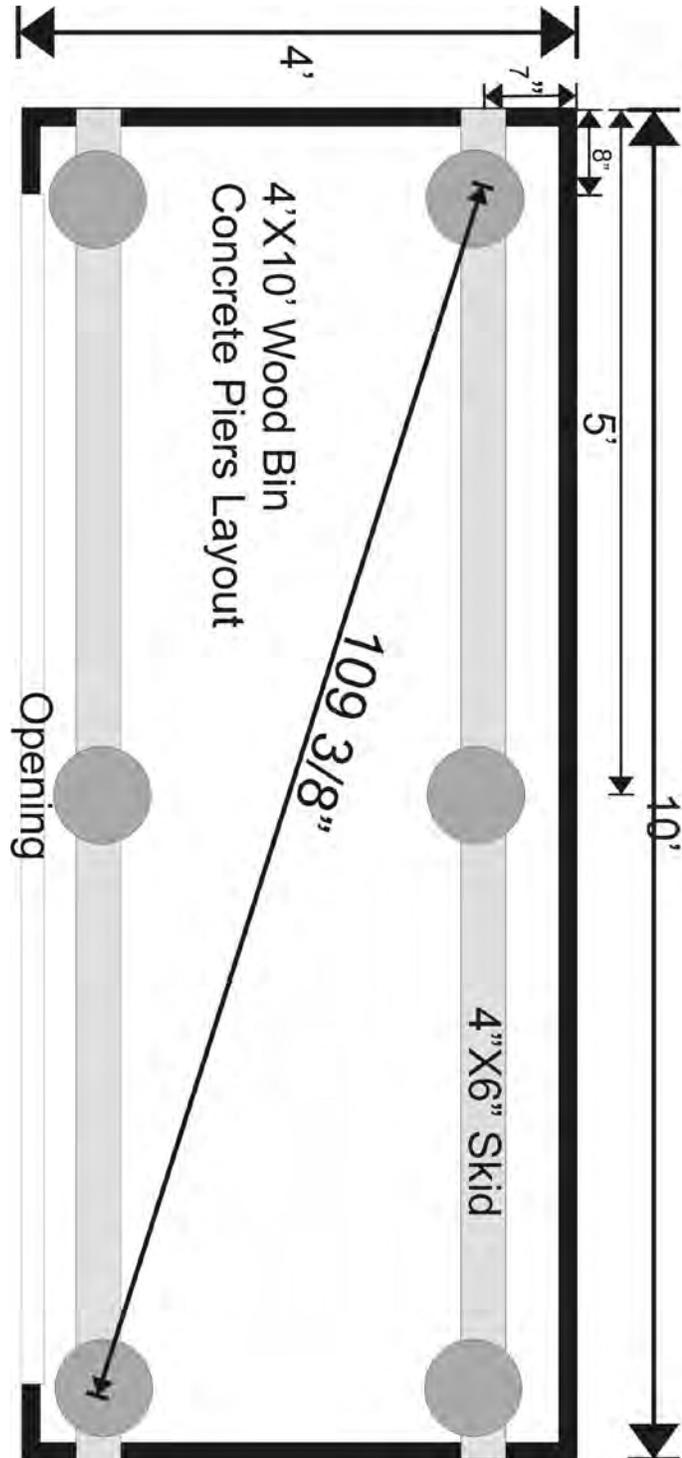


Figure 1



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## 4x10 Garbage Shed - Deck

*NOTE: A nail's strength is based on its length and diameter. Based on a number of variables, including moisture content and material type, use our nailing recommendations as a guide only.*

### Crown your lumber

To yield walls and floors that look level and even, we "crown" joists and studs. First, we look along the side of a framing member to see if it is warped or twisted. Usually, you'll see a minor bow, which is called the crown.

**Crowning joists and installing the crowns facing up is key.** If all of the joists in a floor are set crown up, the weight of the inhabitants and furnishings in the room are apt to level out the joists. If the joists are installed with crowns facing down, it will make the floor hang down.

Assemble the deck frame over the skids. Do not nail joists to skids until the deck has been squared.

**Step 1.** Position the 4x6 hemlock skids 4" in from the framing. Figure 1.

**Step 2.** Lay out all your floor joists at 24" on center. Figure 2.

**Step 3.** Nail the rim joists to the floor joists using three 16d framing nails for each floor joist at each end.

**Step 4.** Tack in joists to the skids on each corner with 2 nails. The flexibility will allow for adjusting the frame. Figure 3.

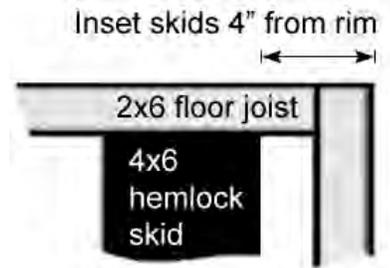


Figure 1

Plan View of Deck Frame

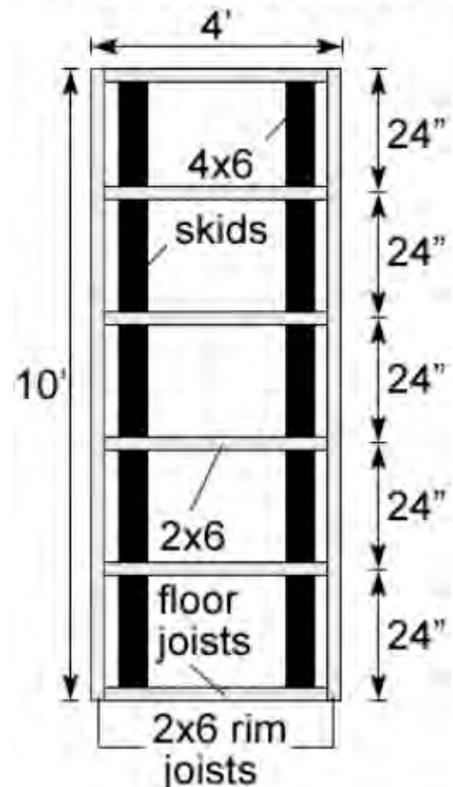


Figure 2

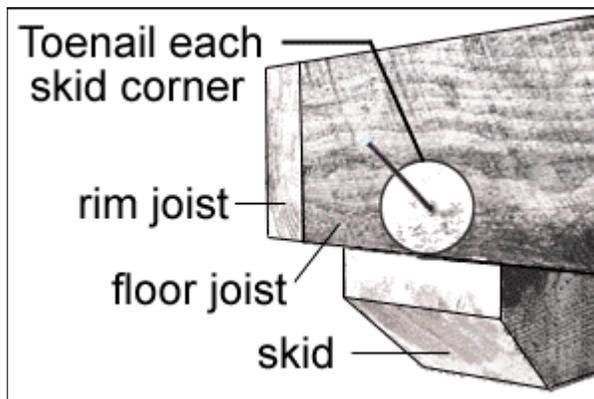


Figure 3



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## 4x10 Garbage Shed – Deck Continued

**Step 5.** Square the deck frame by measuring across the diagonals. Adjust to square if necessary, floor is square when measurements are the same – 129 1/4". Figure 4. Increasing the height of the deck may be accomplished by several means. You may try cement blocks, gravel or wood shims.

**Step 6.** After the frame is squared toenail each joist to the skids with 2 to 4 nails apiece. Figure 5.

**Step 7.** Install 1x6 Hemlock flooring. Flooring is installed perpendicular to the floor joists. If supplying your own material, cut eight 1x6 Hemlock boards at 120" in length. Layout all eight boards, holding them tight so the exterior edges are flush with the rim joists and floor joists. Rough cut lumber can vary in size, so if necessary, rip the last floor board in order for it to sit flush to the rim joist. Once the floorboards are laid out, nail them down using 3 or 4 6d nails at each joist. Figure 6.

### squaring your floor frame

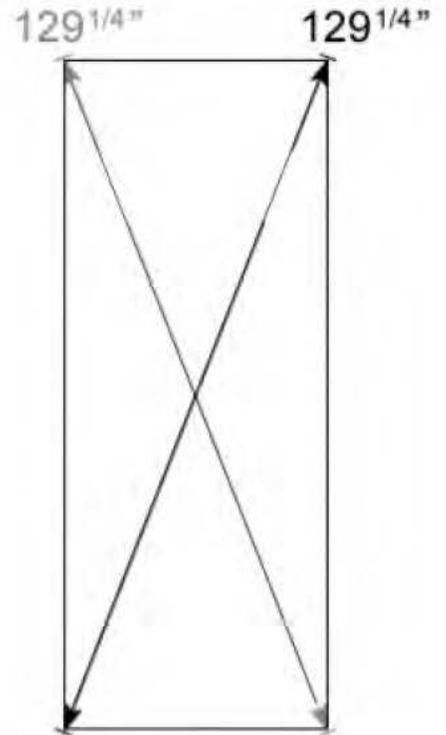


Figure 4

⋮	⋮	Floor Board	1x6x120	⋮	H.0106.12000.FM	⋮
⋮	⋮	⋮	1x6x120	⋮	⋮	⋮
⋮	⋮	⋮	1x6x120	⋮	⋮	⋮
⋮	⋮	⋮	1x6x120	⋮	⋮	⋮
⋮	⋮	⋮	1x6x120	⋮	⋮	⋮
⋮	⋮	⋮	1x6x120	⋮	⋮	⋮
⋮	⋮	⋮	1x6x120	⋮	⋮	⋮
⋮	⋮	⋮	1x6x120	⋮	⋮	⋮
⋮	⋮	⋮	1x6x120	⋮	⋮	⋮

Figure 6- Hemlock Board Flooring

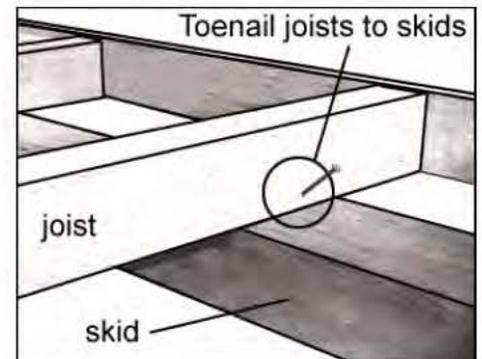


Figure 5



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### 4x10 Garbage Shed - Setting the Posts

If you are supplying your own material, you will need to cut the half laps in your front posts. This should be done before you nail your posts to your deck.

**Step 1.** The front post half laps are placed at 46"-50". Use a skill saw or a hand saw to cut half way through the post (2" deep) at 46" and 50". Then turn the post and cut or chisel in from either side at the center of the post to extract the block, leaving you with a half lap joint. See Figure 1 for examples of half lap joints. See cut list.

**Step 2.** Toenail (nailing in by angle) in the four 4x4 corner posts first. Align them flush into the corners. Blind nail posts (where they won't be visible) into the deck where possible. Figure 2. The 76" front posts should be placed with half lap notch to outside. 46" posts placed at rear corners. Figure 3. Use three 16d framing nails for each outer side of the post where the siding will cover the nails. If necessary, use additional nails on the interior sides of the posts.

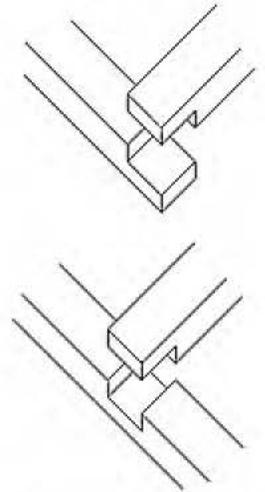


Figure 1 examples of 1/2 lap joints

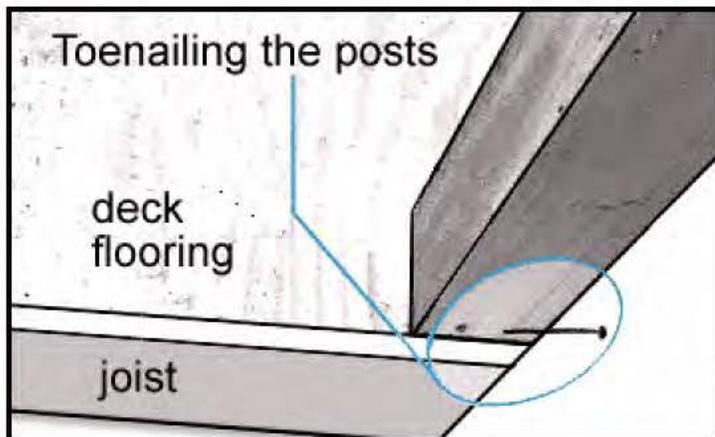


Figure 2

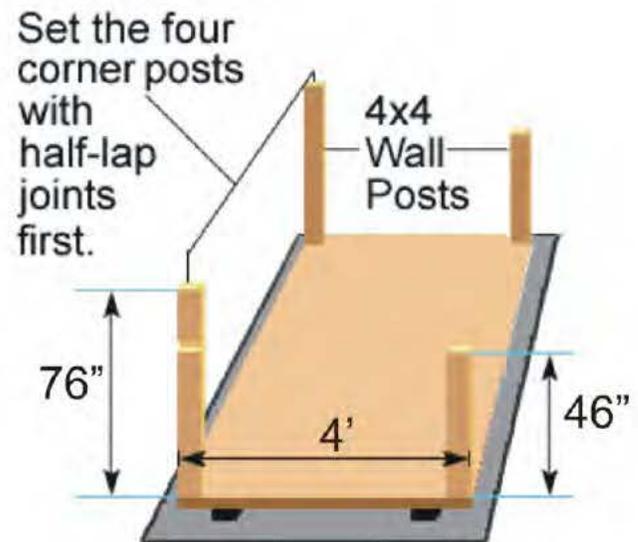


Figure 3

Face front corner posts with 1/2 laps facing out toward gable end.



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## 4x10 Garbage Shed - Wall Construction

**Step 1.** Once the corner posts are done begin attaching your top plate beams and nailers. Start with the rear wall top plate making sure the half-lap joints are placed facing up. Figure 1. The rafter layout is marked on the beams and should be placed with layout up. The rear top plate beam is end nailed through the half laps into the top of the posts using three 16d framing nails at each post.

**Step 2.** Install the 2x4 horizontal nailer at 21-23". Figure 1. Nailers are toe nailed to the corner posts using one 16d nail on each 2" side and two 16d nails up from the bottom 4" side.

**Step 3.** Continue your framework by attaching the gable wall 4x4 top plate beams to the two load bearing wall frames. Both ends use half lap joints and should fit into place. Each gable top plate is different. Nail the top plate to the front post and rear top plate using three 16d framing nails at each end. Figure 2.

**Step 4.** Complete each gable wall frame by adding the 2x4x40" horizontal nailers at 21-23". Figure 2.

**Step 5.** Follow this by adding the front wall 4x4 top plate. The front top plate will not have half laps on the ends. Figure 3. This top plate beam should be toe nailed into the corner posts, using three 16d nails on each outer edge. The 24" on center rafter layout is marked on the beam and should be placed with layout up.

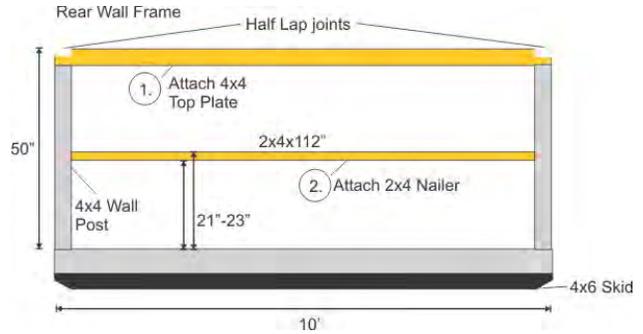


Figure 1

**\*NOTE Do not install angle braces until the temporary bracing has been installed.**

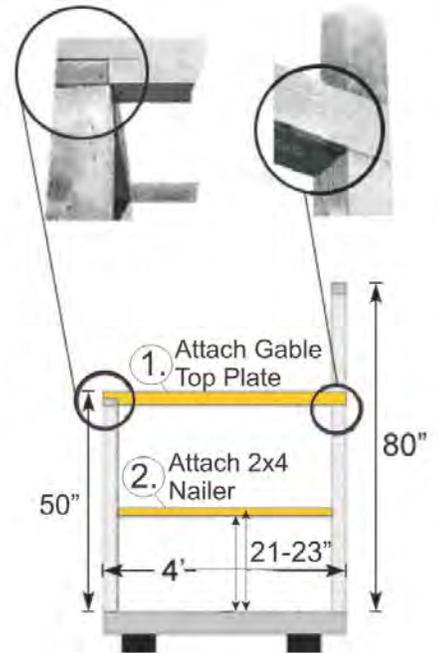


Figure 2

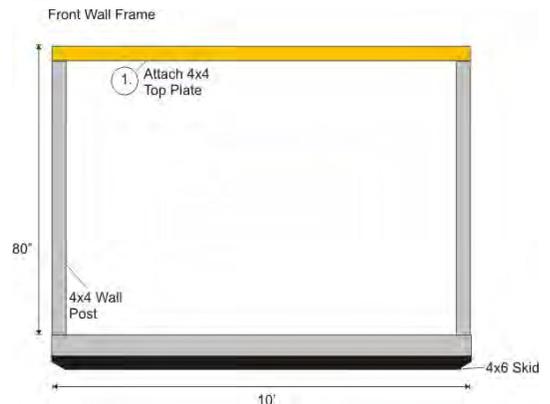


Figure 3



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## Temporary Bracing for the frame

**NOTE:** Do not remove temporary bracing until the roof material is fully installed. The illustrations in the following pages have the braces removed for visual clarity. However, these bracings are essential for creating a well fitting and true standing structure.

**Step 1.** Check the level of your deck. The building will not be straight without a leveled deck. Once the deck is level plumb your walls. Adjust if necessary. Split the difference if opposite posts read different.

**Step 2.** Rear Wall to Front Wall Brace. Attach a brace spanning the two load walls. This brace should be the exact dimension of your deck. For example, if you are building an 8x12 Church St., your brace should be 8'. This brace will secure these walls against the weight of the rafters. Attach this brace first before plumbing. Figures 5 and 6.

**Step 3.** Square and apply temporary bracing to all walls on the inside as not to interfere with attaching the siding or rafters. Figure 1. The building will be secured so rafters do not spread the walls apart. The walls are properly braced when it is possible to walk on them. After adjustments take 50-100 steps back and site the building by eye. Double check that it is straight and your braces are nailed off.

### Bracing tips.

Attach the top ends of the bracing so they are below the top plates to avoid obstructing the rafters. Figure 7.

Attach the lower ends of the bracings as close as possible to the deck to increase its strength. You may also nail a block into a floor joist to create attach points. Figure 2.

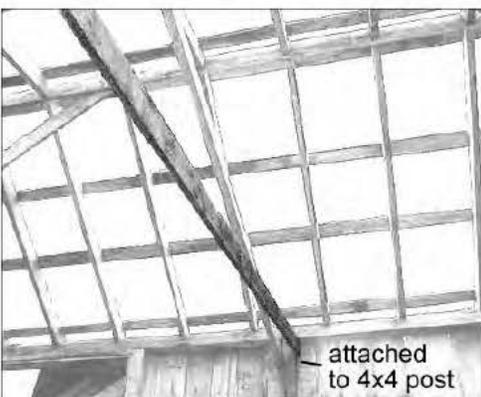


Figure 5



Figure 3

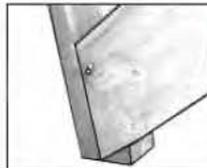


Figure 4



Figure 6. Rear wall to front wall brace

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### Temporary Bracing

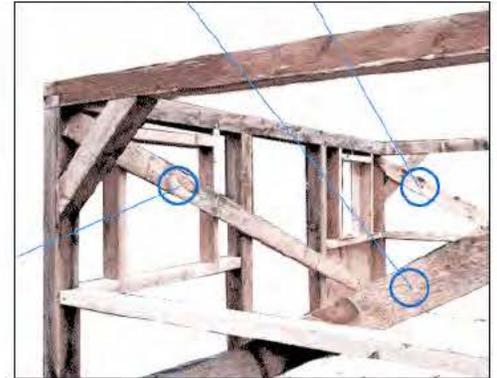


Figure 1. Attach braces diagonally from post corners to decking



Figure 2. Nail your bracing to a block that is nailed to a joist.



Figure 7. Brace your front wall in the center, over the door, not to interfere with the loft.



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## 4x10 Garbage Shed - Front Wall Frame

With the frame squared and braced now is the time to add door framing and the permanent 45-degree angled bracing to the wall frames.

**Step 1.** Start with the front wall by attaching the 2x4x112" door header at 64"-66". Figure 1. This header should be toe nailed using one 16d framing nail on each 2" side and two-16d framing nails up from the bottom 4" side.

**Step 2.** Install the 2x4x64" door studs to the inside of the corner post. Nail in pairs at the floor, at the header and halfway up. Figure 2.

**Step 3.** Attach the 2x4x64" door studs in the middle of the front wall. These studs should create a 48" rough opening for the double doors. Figure 3. End nail these studs to the 2x4x8" door blocking and toenail to the header and floor. Blind nail using three nails at each end. If necessary, toenail additional nails on the interior sides of the post.

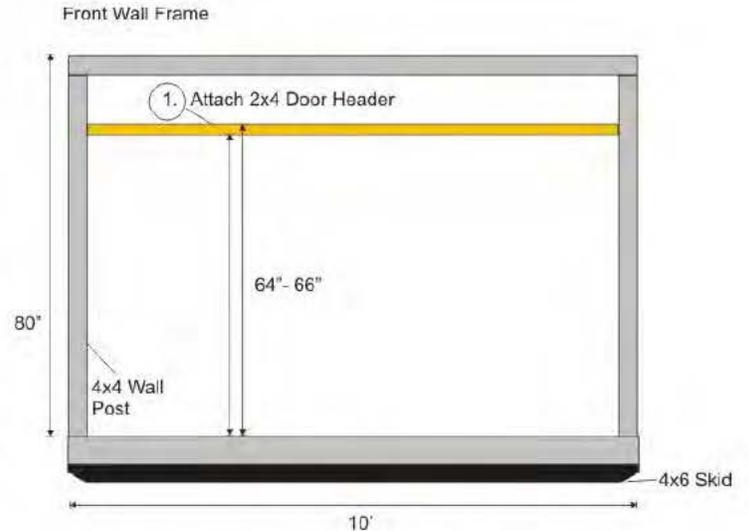


Figure 1

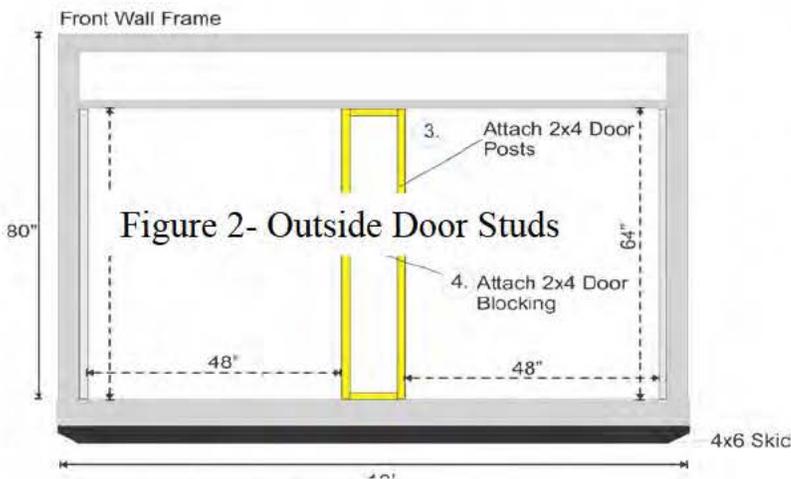
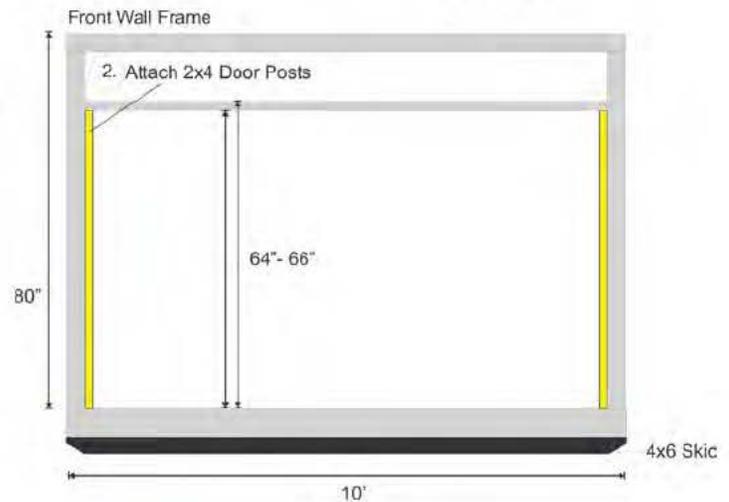


Figure 3-Middle Door Studs



Figure 4-Middle Door Stud



## 4x10 Garbage Shed - Bracing the Frame

**Step 1.** Add your 4x4x24" angle bracing to the rear bearing wall. Figure 5. Bracing is nailed using three 16d framing nails for each end.

**Step 2.** Finish bracing your frames by adding them to the gable walls. Figure 6.

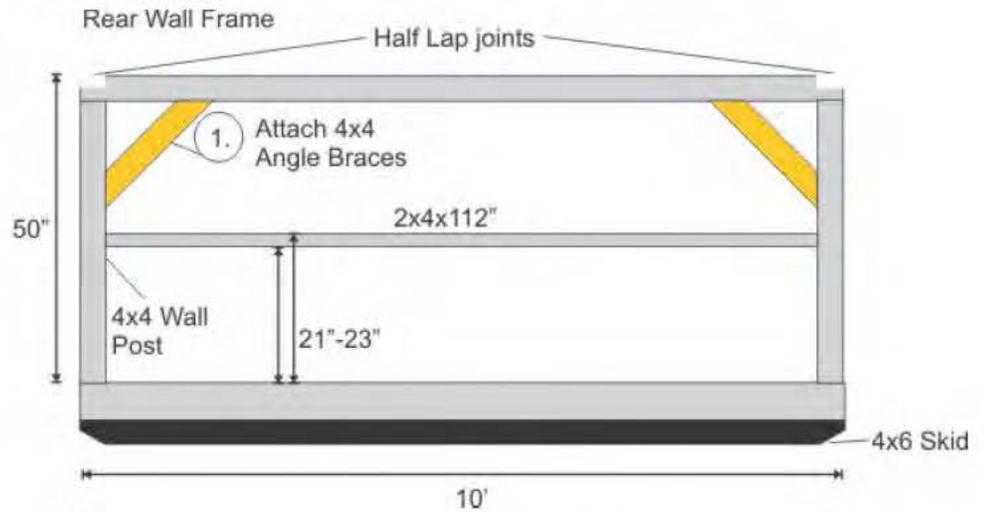


Figure 5



Figure 8-Angle Bracing

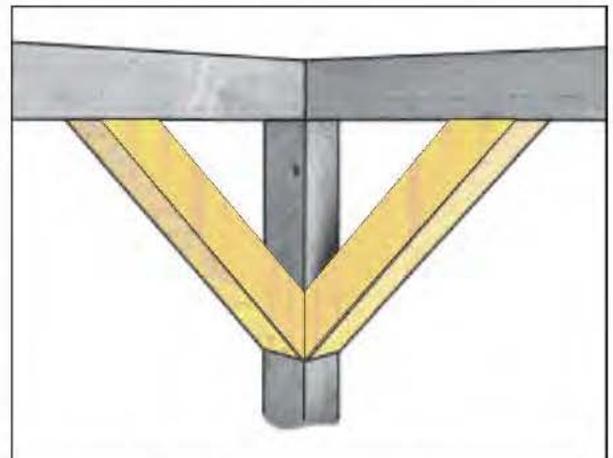


Figure 7 4x4 Corner bracing



Figure 6

*\*IMPORTANT Temporary bracing has been removed from these drawings for clarification; do not remove the braces until the project is complete.*



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## 4x10 Garbage Shed - Adding Siding to the Bearing Walls

When attaching the bearing wall siding, don't use siding smaller than 1x6. Nail the siding to the horizontal nailers, rim joists and top plates. These will provide solid contact points for attachment.

**Step 1.** Install rear wall siding. If you are working from a kit, the siding is pre-cut to length and should sit flush with the top plate beam. We use 1x12 rough cut pine boards. If you are using your own material, it is possible to run the siding wild along the top and cut in place. Figure 1.

**\*IMPORTANT**  
 Finish the rear siding flush to the top plates. The rafter tails will fit over the siding.

Running the siding wild

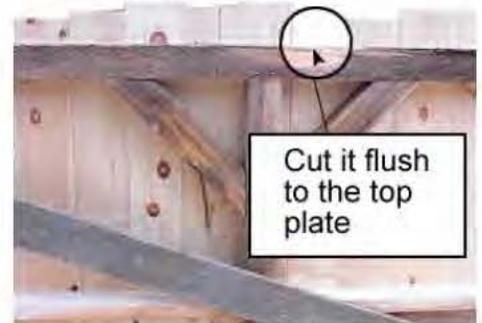


Figure 1

**Step 2.** Set the siding to hang below rim joists a 1/4" to ensure water drainage. Figure 2.

**Step 3.** Use four nails at each floor joist, nailer and top plate. 12 nails for each 1x12 siding board. See Figure 3.

**Step 4.** Trim the siding flush with the top plate as in Figure 1.

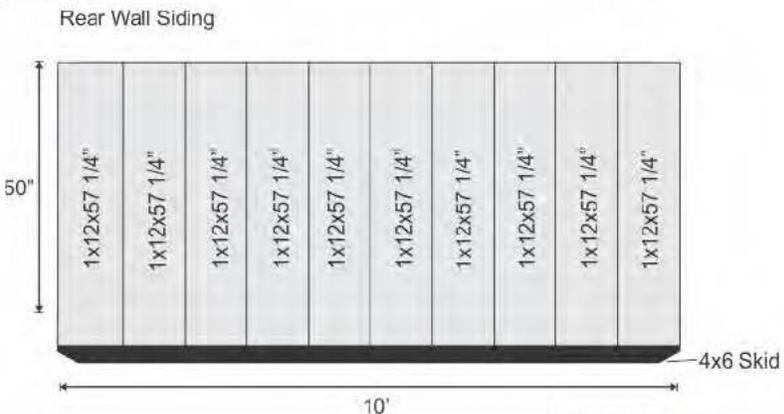


Figure 2

**Step 5.** Install front wall siding. Allow siding to stick above the top plate a maximum of 3" on the front wall only. The rafters will butt against the siding. The front 10' long wall is made up of 11 boards. See Figure 4 for correct placement. Nail off every 6" around doors.

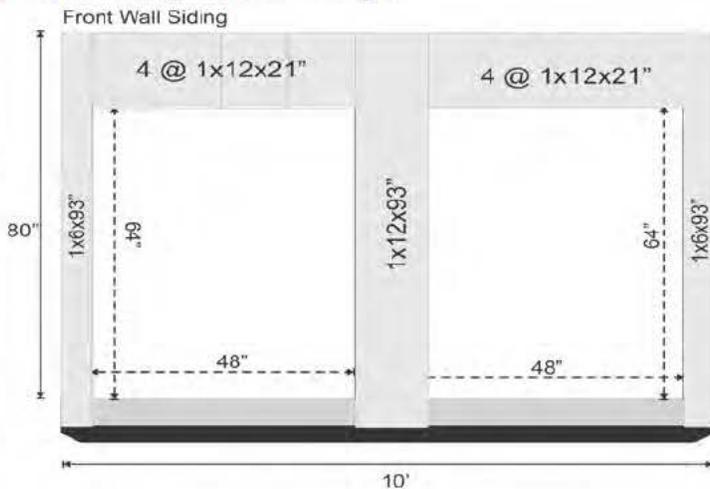


Figure 4-Front Wall Siding

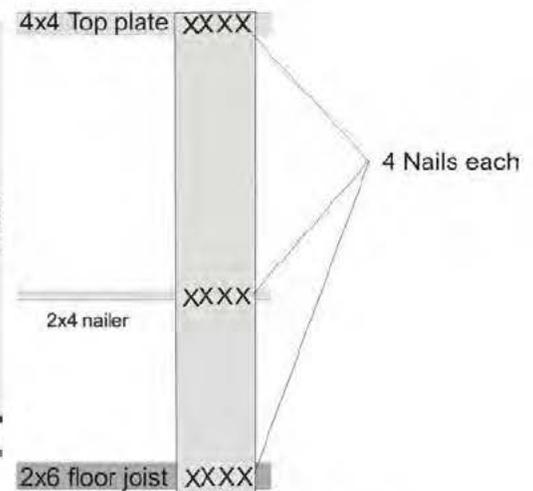


Figure 3



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## 4x10 Garbage Shed - Setting the Rafters

Install the rear roof rafters. The notched sections of the rear rafters should hug tight to the siding. Refer to the exploded view.

If working from your own lumber, see Appendix A Cutting the Rafters.

**Step 1.** Attach rear rafters, one at each end. Using two 16d framing nails on each 6" side of the rafter toenail it into the top plate beams. Figure 1.

**Step 2.** Fill in the remaining four rafters at 24" on center.

**Step 3.** Plumb the rafters. Sighting the rafters best does this. Using two people, have one step back 50-100' and direct the other in racking the rafters until they are correct. Alternatively, a level may be used on the gable end.

**Step 4.** Once your rafters are plumb, it is time to assemble the front overhang. This can be done on the ground and then attached as one unit. Start by end nailing the 2x6x15" front rafters to the 1x8x120" Ledger Board at 24" on center. Figure 2. Use three 16d framing nails for each rafter.

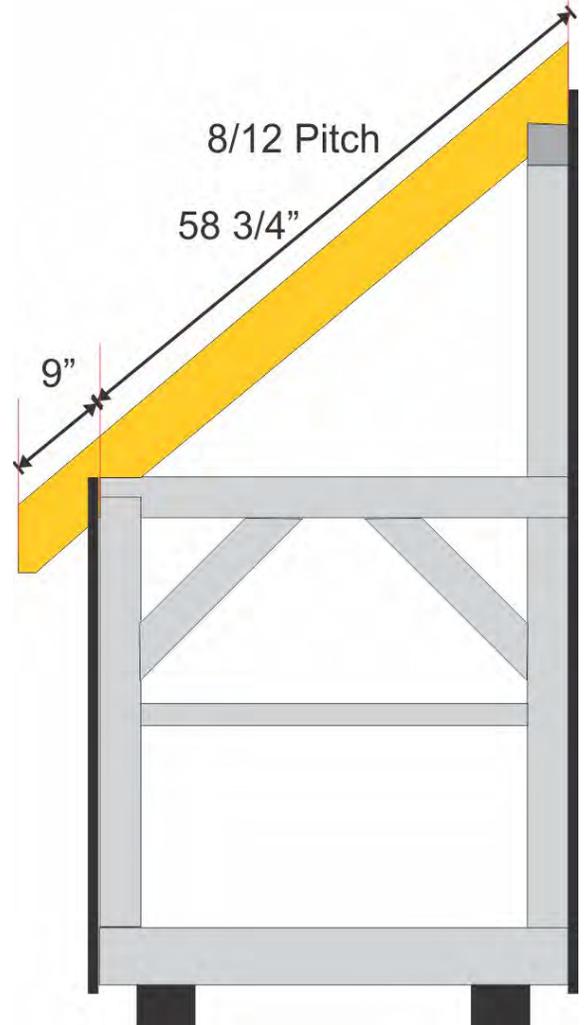


Figure 1

### Front Roof Overhang

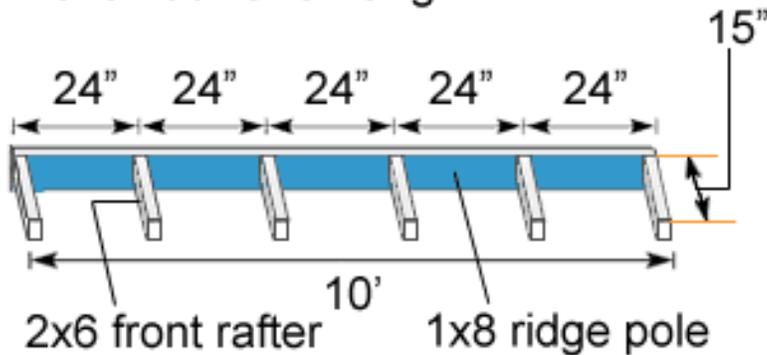


Figure 2



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## 4x10 Garbage Shed - Ledger Board, Front Rafters, Rafter supports & Strapping

**Step 6.** Next apply the 1x8 Ledger board and front rafters directly to the front siding as shown in Figure 3. Adjust until the two peaks come to a point. Nail the ledger board into the siding using three 6d nails at every rafter.

**Step 7.** To complete the roof framing, install your 2x4 rafter supports. Figure 4. Rafter supports are nailed on using three 16d framing nails per end. Place the rafter supports on each end and on the two center rafters.

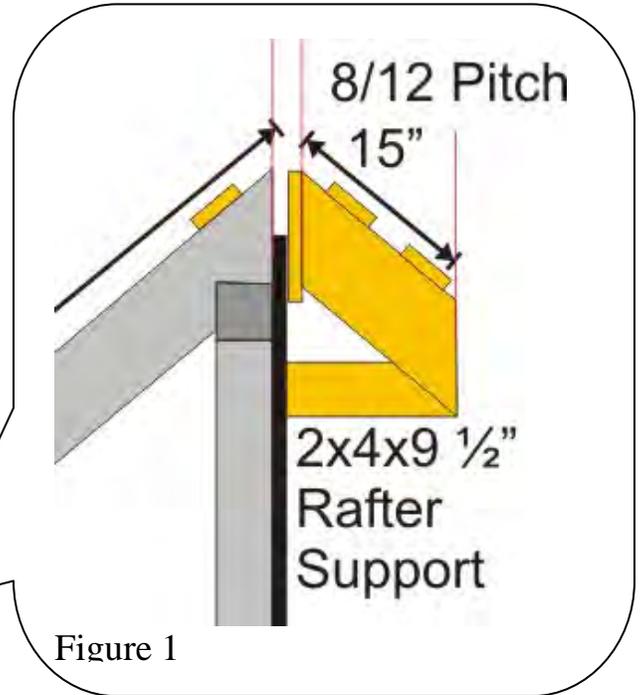


Figure 1

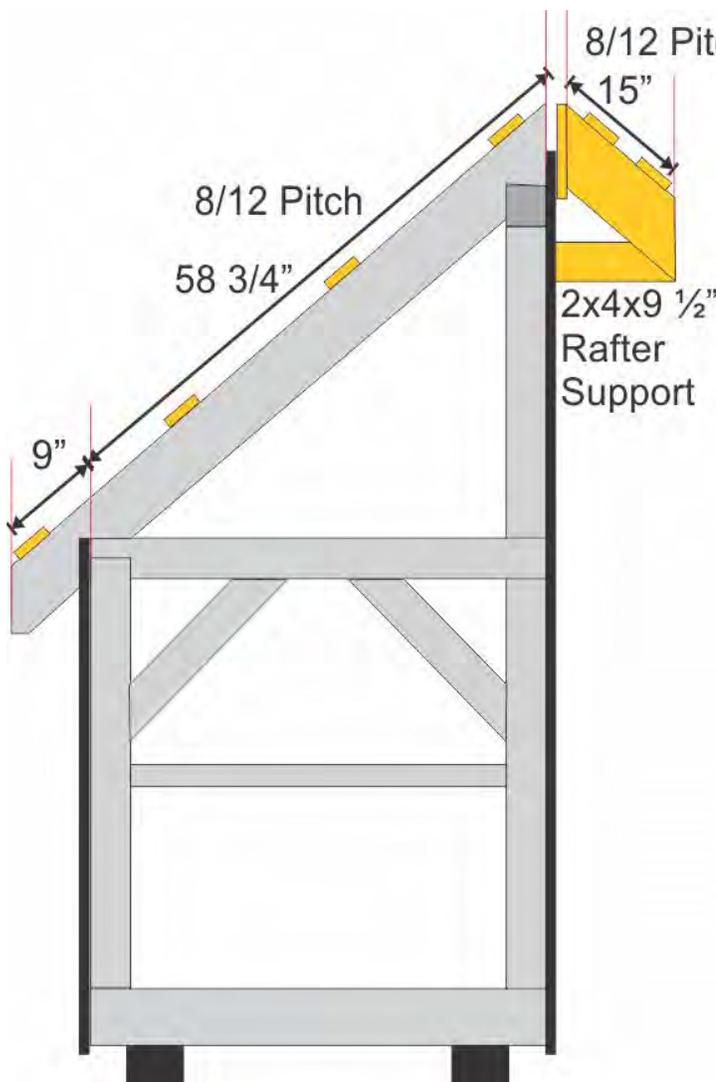


Figure 2

**Step 8.** Install 1x4 roof strapping approximately 20" on center. \*IMPORTANT Hold top course down 2" from ridge to allow nailing for ridge cap. Figure 2. Use two 6d nails at each rafter. When placing the last piece of strapping, place a level or straight edge against the rafters to be sure that the strapping does not hang below the rafter edge. Figure 3.

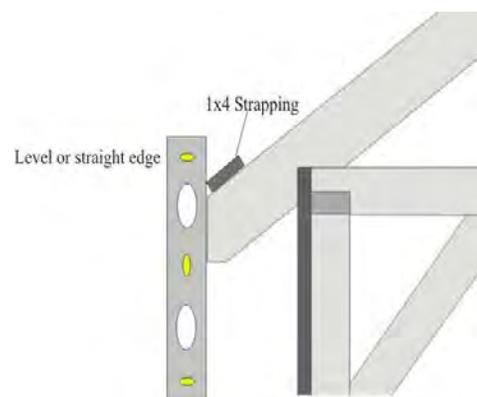


Figure 3



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### 4x10 Garbage Shed – Gable Siding

**Step 1.** If supplying your own lumber, attach the gable siding wild. Cut it **flush** to the rafter. Siding should be no smaller than 1x6. The corner trim will cover any short and will hide up to 2” of exposed framing.

**Step 2.** Nail to the rim joist, horizontal nailer, top plate and rafters. Allow siding to hang below rim joists a ¼”. Use four 6d galvanized nails at each floor joist, nailer, top plate & rafter. 16 nails for each 1x12 siding board. Figure 4.

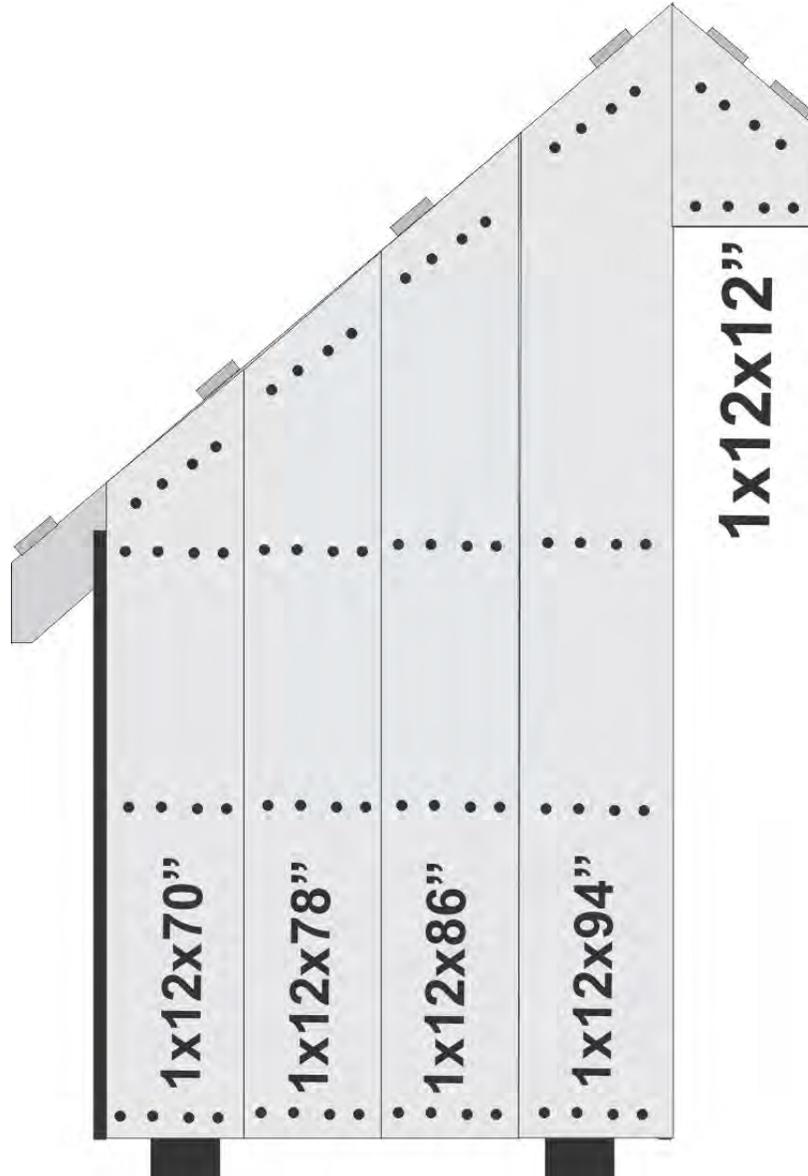


Figure 4



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## 4x10 Garbage Shed - Fascia and Shadow Boards

**Step 1.** Apply the 1x8 fascia to the two gable walls cutting them flush to the rafter ends. The rafter patterns that were made for the roof framing contain the same angles that you will use for cutting the fascia to match the rafter tails on the gable ends. The fascia is intentionally run long in the PCK's in order for a tight fit. Use a hand saw to cut off any excess. Figure 1. Fascia should be attached using three 6d galvanized nails 24" on center. Finish the fascia completely before beginning the shadow trim.

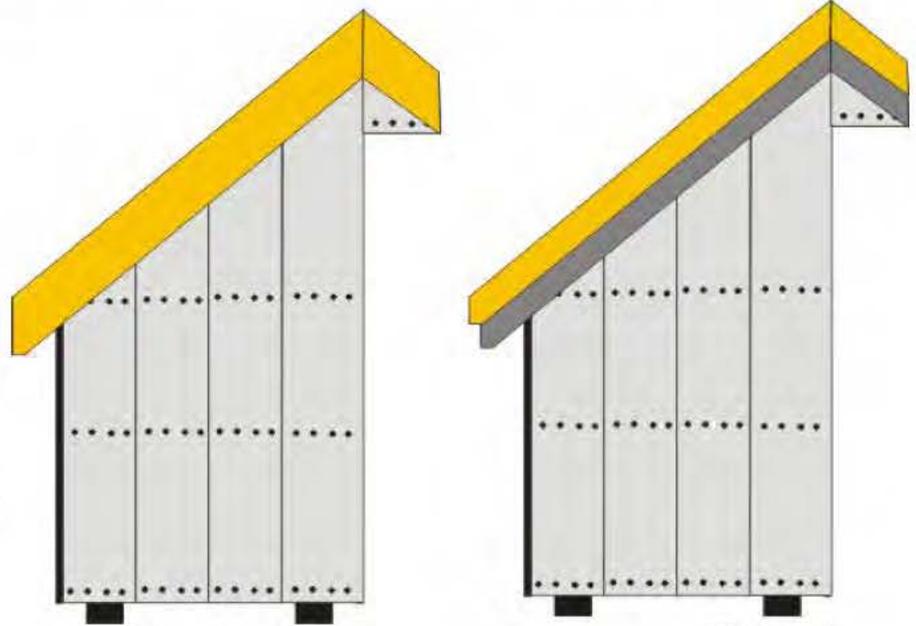


Figure 1

**Step 2.** Install the fascia on the bearing walls. When putting the fascia on the bearing walls, set a straight edge along the roof strapping to make sure the roofing material clears the trim boards. Figure 4. Fascia is nailed on using three 6d galvanized nails at each rafter.

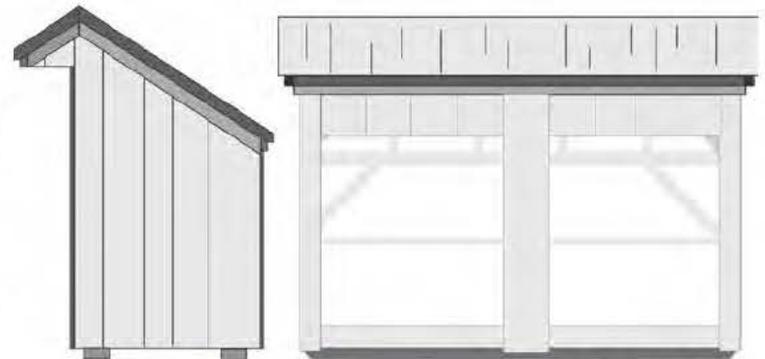


Figure 2

**Step 3.** Install the 1x4 shadow board using the same technique as the fascia. Figures 1 and 3. Nail in place using two 6d galvanized nails at each rafter or 24" on center on the gable ends. Once the fascia is complete, begin the shadow trim. Figure 2 shows both and fascia and shadow trim finished.

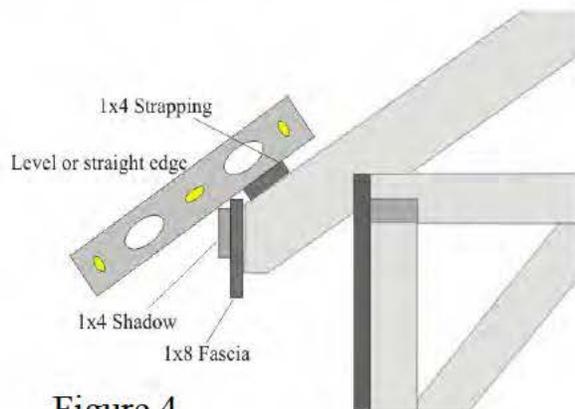


Figure 4



Figure 3



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### 4x10 Garbage Shed - Corner and Door Trim

**Step 1.** Attach the vertical 1x4 corner trim boards flush in the front and rear. Figure 1. To avoid a “bullet holed” look, nail in pairs using the 6d galvanized nails. Work them in unison across or down proportionately.

**Step 2.** Install the 1x5 door casing trim around the interior of the woodbin opening. This trim covers the siding and the door framing and fits around the interior of the opening. Figure 1. Nail the door casing trim with four sets of three 6d nails, one at each end and two evenly spaced in the center. Refer to the cutlist for cutting details.

**Step 3.** Install the 1x4 exterior door trim. This trim is installed around the exterior of the opening. Should be flush to the door casing and nailed into the siding. Figure 2.

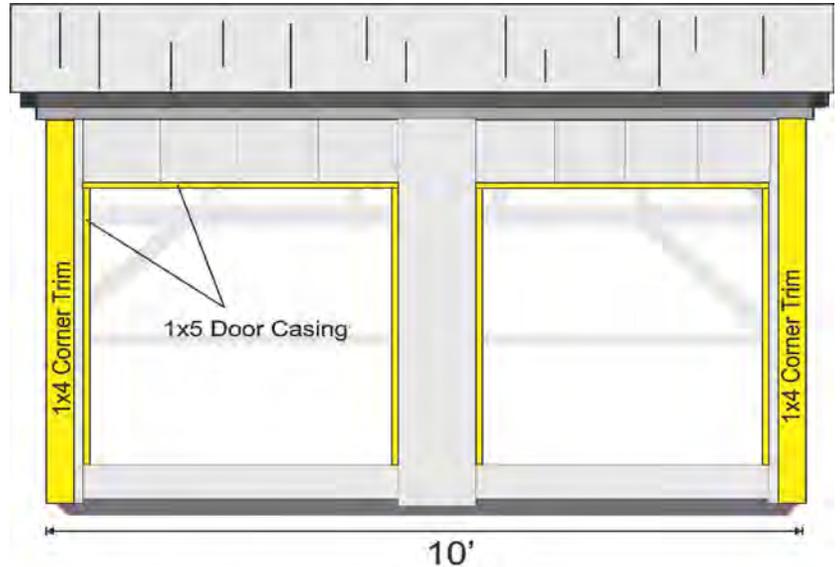


Figure 1- Corner Trim & Door Casing

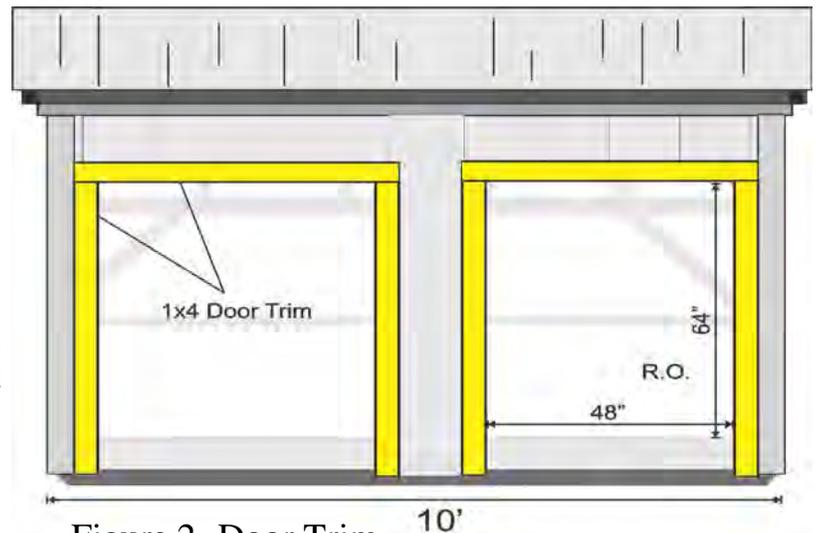


Figure 2- Door Trim

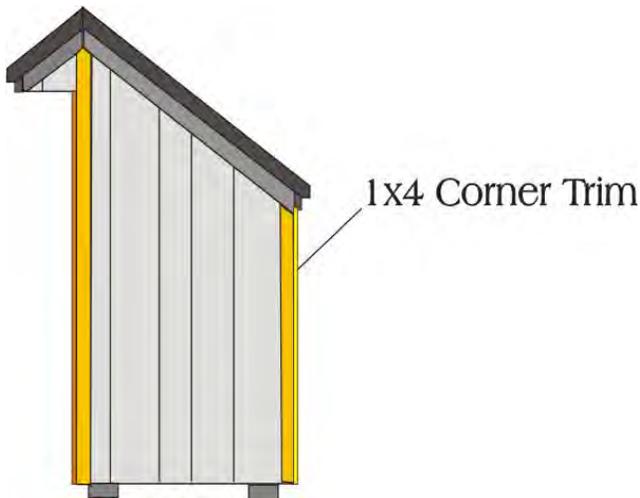


Figure 3

Figure 3- Finished 4x10 Garbage Shed





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## Hanging Doors

Hang the doors tight to the top and hinge side. You may require the assistance of another person to leverage and keep the door in position while it is attached. Door should be hinged on outside to open out and hung on two hinges, top hinge set down 12" and the bottom hinge set up 14". Figure 1. Attach the door stops with the door closed. Start with top then the side pieces. Figure 1.



Figure 1

### Door latch Installation: Figures 2 and 3

1. Close doors flush with each other.
2. Position template from turn latch box in position on door.
3. Mark screw & pin locations.
4. Bore 3/4" hole for pin.
5. Mark two screw holes for pin handle washer from template. These must be central with 3/4" hole, otherwise pin will BIND against 3/4" hole or pin handle in pin handle washer.
6. Attach pin handle first in a horizontal position with pin thru hole in door.
7. Place latch over pin and screw in place.
8. Attach front catch or strike.

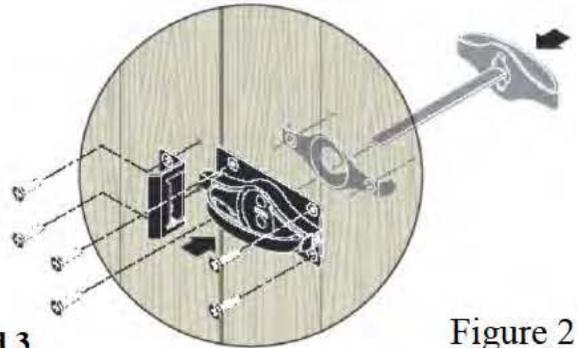


Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 6



Figure 4



Figure 5

**Chain Bolt** Figure 4. You will need to flip the angle of the bolt. Carefully remove the S-hook detaching the chain using pliers or vise. Do not break the soft metal. Slip out the bolt, reverse placement and reattach chain. **Foot Bolt.** Figure 5. Drill or chisel out clearance for the bolt, allow room for dirt to collect.

See Appendix B if supplying your own lumber. The pre-cut kits include pre built ready to install doors.



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## 4x10 Garbage Shed - Corrugated metal roofing

Attach the corrugated metal roofing to the roof strapping using 1 1/2" roofing screws. Figure 1.

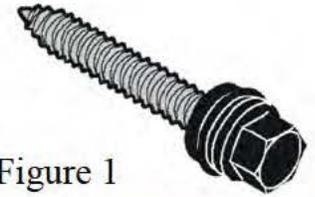


Figure 1

**Step 1.** Apply your first sheet of metal allowing the metal to hang over the shadow board by 2" on both the gable end and the bearing wall. Figure 2. To gain this result, the metal can be held down from the peak a couple inches as the ridge cap will cover this area. The first sheet installed is the most important. It will dictate how the rest layout.



Figure 2

**Step 2.** The metal roofing is then screwed into the strapping. Screws are positioned on the flats between every ridge and on the ridge only where two pieces of metal overlap, as shown in figure 3.

**Step 3.** Apply the ridge cap. The ridge cap is screwed into the top course of strapping, only in the ridges. Screwing the ridge cap in the valleys will cause the metal to dent. Figures 4 through 6.

If the building is out of square the metal roofing will not fit. Each piece may need adjusting to make it fit.

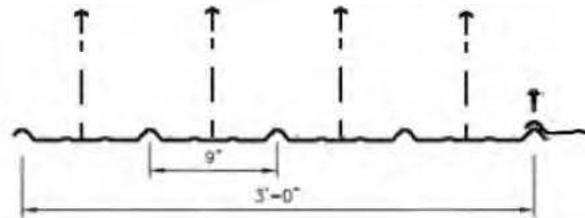


Figure 3

### The ridge cap

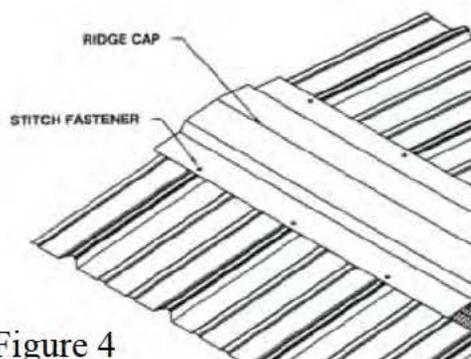


Figure 4

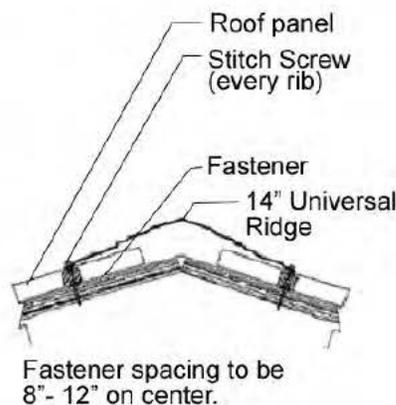


Figure 5

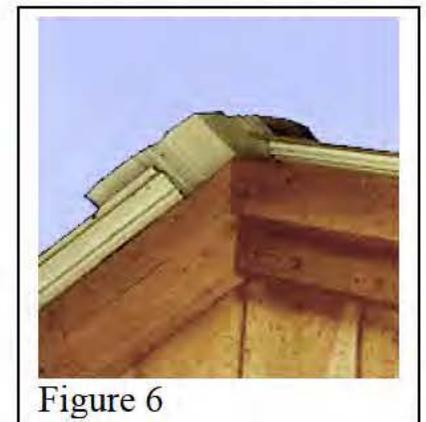


Figure 6



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## Optional asphalt shingle roofing

**Step 1.** For an asphalt shingle roof you first must sheath your roof solid with pine boards or plywood. After the roof surface has been completely cleaned of debris and all loose boards have been fastened down, install the drip edge (also called "edge iron") along the eave. Nail the drip edge with 1-1/4" galvanized roofing nails.



Figure 1



Figure 2



Installing drip edges

Figure 3

**Step 2.** Install vapor barrier. Roll out and staple over drip edge at the eave.

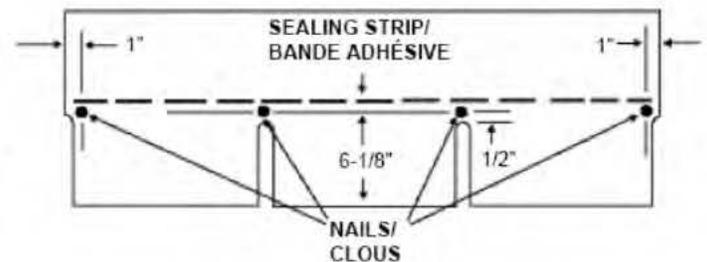
**Step 3.** Install drip edge along the rake. At the corner, the drip edge along the rake (the sloping edge) is laid over top of the eave's drip edge and nailed. Figures 1 through 3.



Figure 4

**Step 4.** Install the starter strip, which is just a backing for the first visible row of shingles (it prevents water from getting through to the roof at the gaps between shingles, and at the notches between tabs). The starter course goes on TOP of the drip edge at the eaves (bottom) and UNDER the drip edge at the rakes (sides). If 3-tab shingles are used, cut off the tabs along a line level with the top of the cutouts, and install the starter course with the factory applied sealant adjacent to the eaves overhanging the rake edges and eaves by 1/4" - 3/8". Begin starter course with a shingle cut 4" short so that joints will not coincide with joints between first course shingles.

**Step 5.** Begin by installing shingles from the lower left corner, working to the right and also working uphill. Figure 4. You should work in straight lines. We recommend popping a vertical chalk line on the roof sheathing every 36 inches and a horizontal chalk line every 10 inches. This will enable you to align the top and side edges of each shingle along a straight line. Snapping lines and spot checking by pulling a tape measure up to check the reveals will ensure that your shingles are going on straight. Use galvanized (zinc coated) roofing nails, 11 or 12 gauge, with at least 3/8" diameter heads, long enough to penetrate through plywood or 3/4" into boards. Use 4 nails per shingle placed 6-1/8" above the butt edge, 1" and 13" in from each end and 1/2" above each cutout. Drive nails straight so that nail head is flush with, but not cutting into shingle surface. Figure 5.



DO NOT NAIL INTO OR ABOVE THE SEALING STRIP/NE PAS CLOUSER DANS OU PAR DESSUS LA BANDE AUTOCOLLANTE

Figure 5



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### 4x10 Garbage Bin - Optional asphalt shingle roofing Continued

The shingles must be arranged so the ends and the tab notches do not lie directly above gaps in the shingle below. If the gaps lined up, water could get directly onto the roof sheathing and then seep in through a nail hole. Figure 6.

**FIRST COURSE:** Start with a complete shingle applied flush with starter course at rake and eave. Nail as described above and continue across roof with full shingles.

**SECOND COURSE:** Start with a shingle from which one half tab has been cut at the rake end. Apply with lower edge of the tabs just down to the tops of the cutouts in the first course.

**THIRD AND SUCCEEDING COURSES:** Start third course with a shingle from which a full tab has been cut. Cut off an additional half tab to start each succeeding course, using the tops of the cutouts as an exposure guide. At the 7<sup>th</sup> course, repeat the sequence of the first six courses up the roof. For maximum wind protection, cement shingles at rake edges.

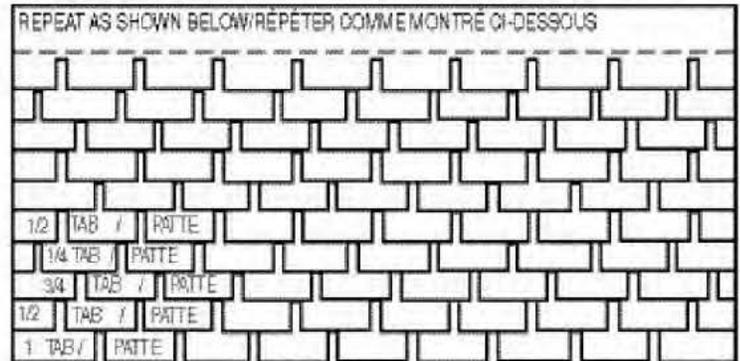


Figure 6

#### RANDOM SPACING (PREFERRED METHOD)

Random spacing can be achieved by removing different amounts from the rake tab of succeeding courses in accordance with the following general principles:

1. The width of any rake tab should be at least 1/4 tab.
2. Cutout centerlines of any course should be located at least 1/4 tab laterally from the cutout centre line in both the course above and the course below.
3. The rake tab widths should not repeat closely enough to cause the eye to follow a cutout alignment.

**Step 6.** Cut strip shingles into individual pieces by dividing at the cutouts. Figure 7. Bend each piece over the ridge, and nail 6-1/8" above the butt edge 1" in from each side, exposing each piece 5-5/8" to the weather. Figure 8. The final shingle should be set in cement and the exposed nail heads of this shingle should be covered with cement. Prior to application in cold weather, store ridge shingles in heated area to allow for easier bending.

Cutting along dotted lines will create 3 caps

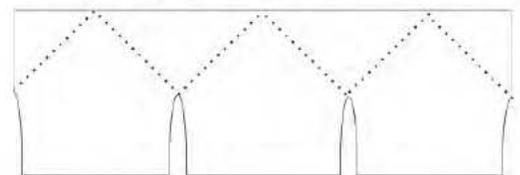


Figure 7

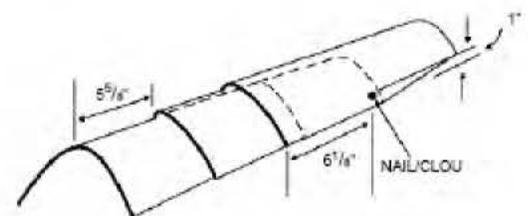


Figure 8



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## 4x10 Garbage Bin Pictures



Roof Strapping



Bottom of building showing 4x6 skid placement and bottom of siding and trim



1/2 lap 4x4 top plate corner attachment



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### Appendix A - Cutting Rafters

How to use the rafter patterns.

**Step One** cut out the rafter templates that came with your plans  
Cut along the heavy darkened black lines on the templates so they can be trace onto the lumber.

#### Step Two Crown the lumber

Place your lumber so all the crowns are facing away from you. Rafter templates should always be traced with the paper held tight to the top of the crown.

#### Step Three Trace and cut the plumb cut

Start with the top of the rafter that will lean against the ridge. Place the cut out rafter template on one end of the lumber so the tops are flush, trace the angle and cut the line.

#### Step Four Measure the rafter length

Hook a tape measure from the long point of the plumb cut and measure down the top of the rafter with the measurement found on the specifications page. Make a mark. Make a second mark if your cottage design has a rafter tail overhang. This will be the second measurement found on the specification page of the plans. (Not all designs have tails) Rafter lengths supplied are set up for full dimensional lumber.

#### Step Four Trace the seat cut

Line the mark you just made on the lumber with the mark on the seat cut template sometimes called the “C” cut or “birds mouth”. Be sure to hold the template flush with the top of the rafter and trace the notch that will sit on the wall. Follow the same procedure if your design has a tail.

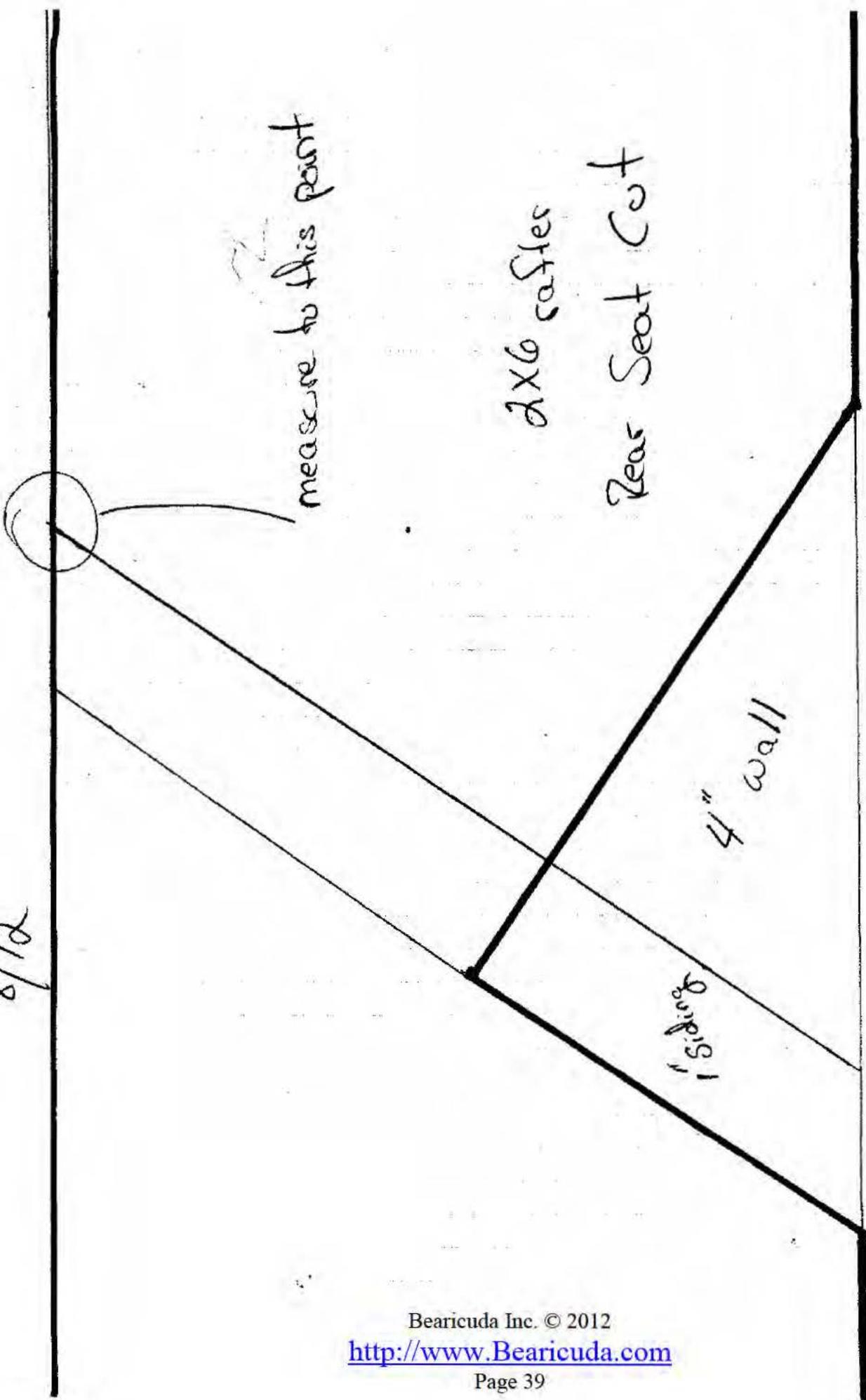
#### Step Five Cut the lines for your pattern

Cut all the lines you just traced and mark this rafter as your pattern. Trace and cut one more and test. Be sure that the rafters will fit before proceeding onto cutting the rest. Use this tested pattern to trace the remainder of the needed rafters.

**Crown or Crowning:** The way the wood arcs. On the narrower side of the lumber the wood grows with a natural arc or bend in it. The crown can be found by holding the lumber so the narrow side of the board is upright and sighting down the top of the board. If the middle of the board dips the crown is upside down. Some boards are easier to determine than others and one should just guess if it is not apparent. Always place the crown up when framing for better weight support.



8/12



measure to this point

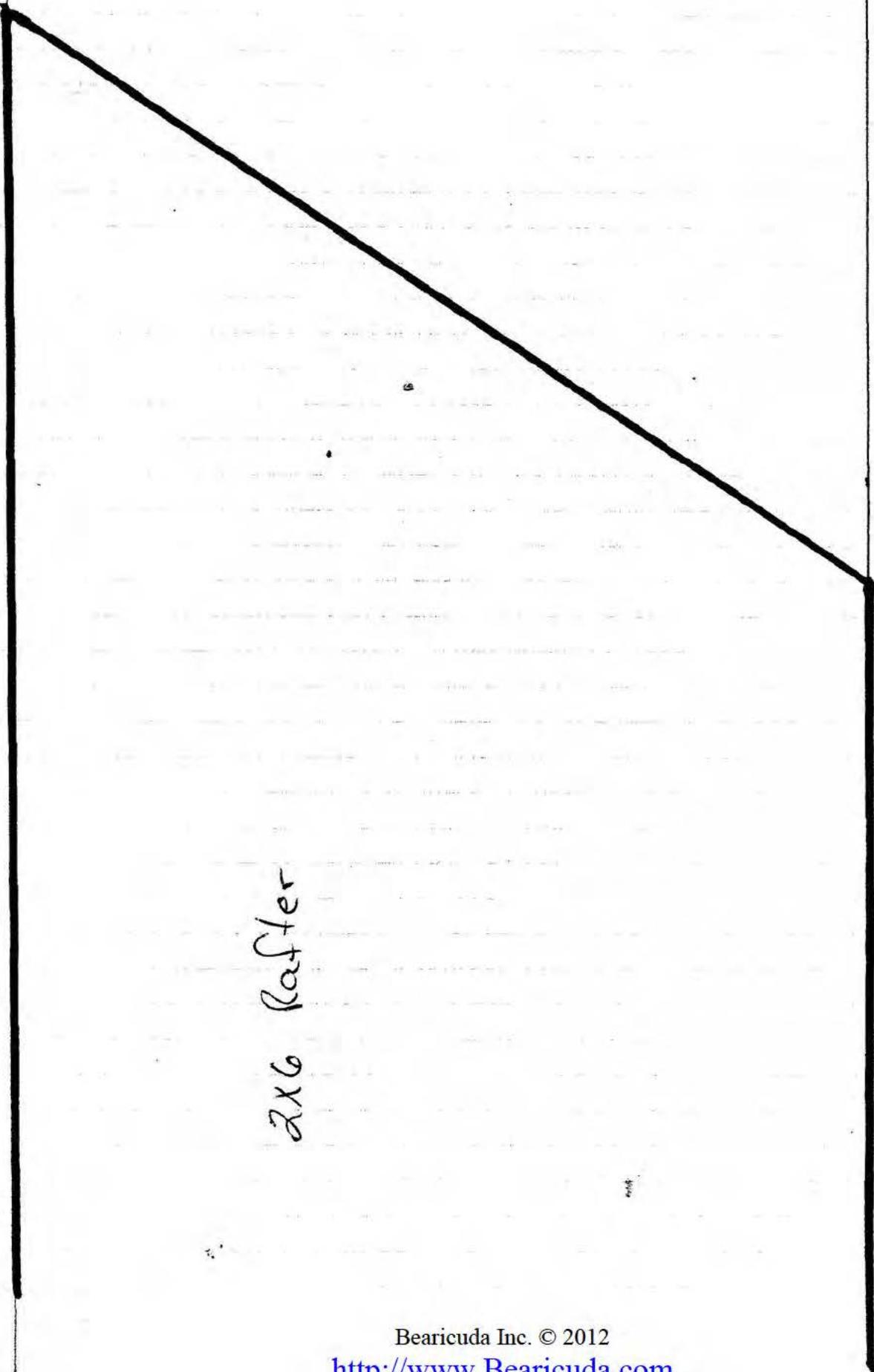
2X6 cafter  
Rear Seat Cut

4" wall

'Siding'

8/12 Plumb cut

2x6 Rafter

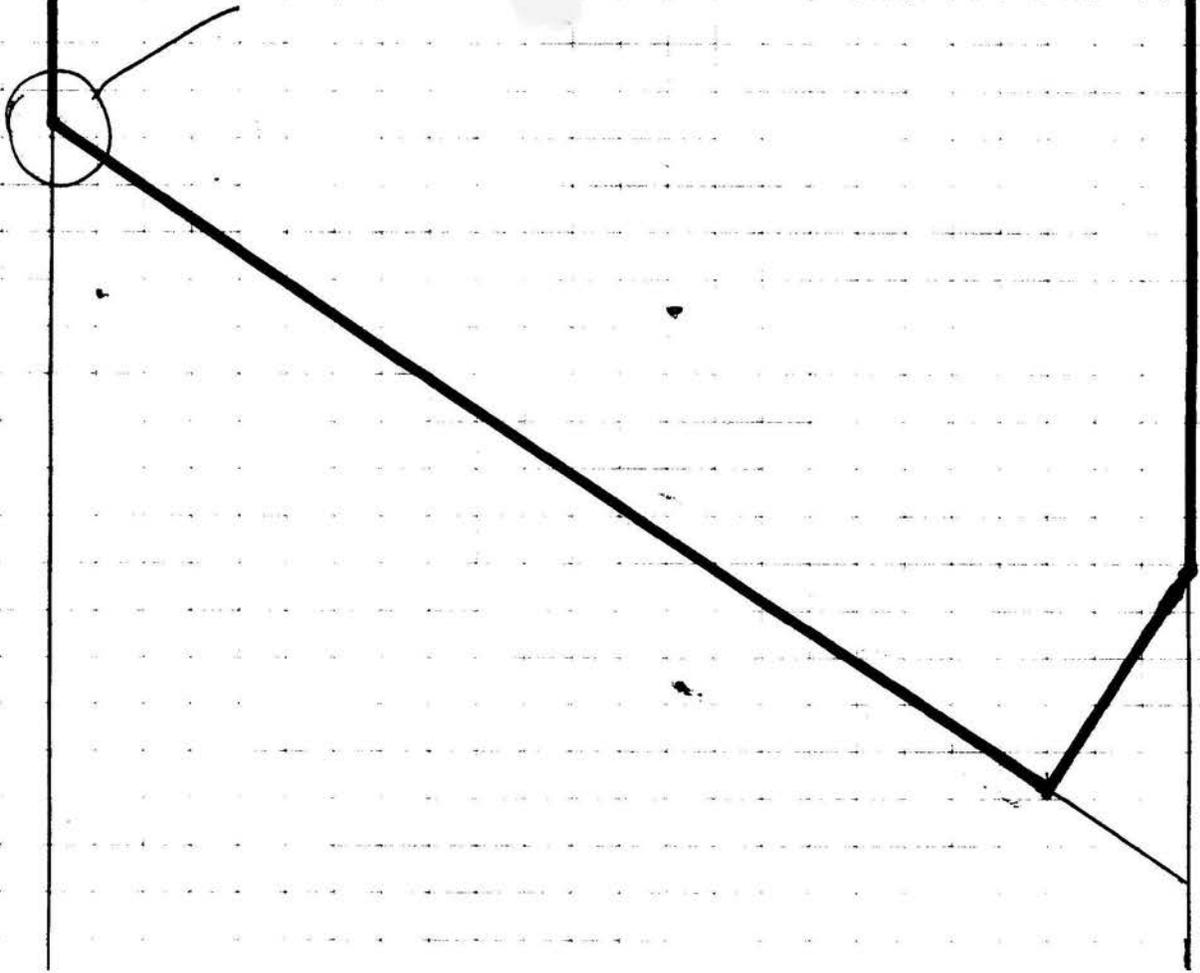


8/12

measure to this point

Rafter Tail

2x6 Rafter

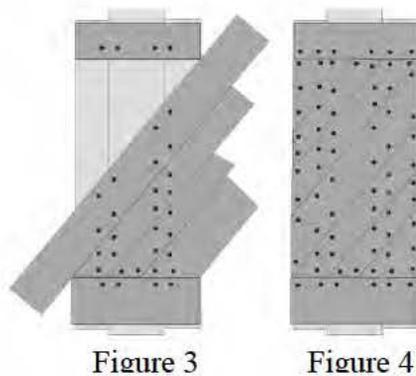
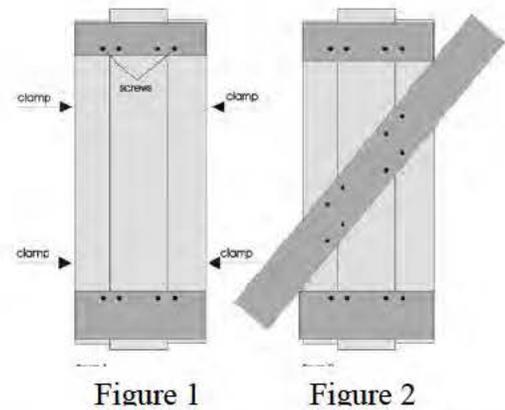




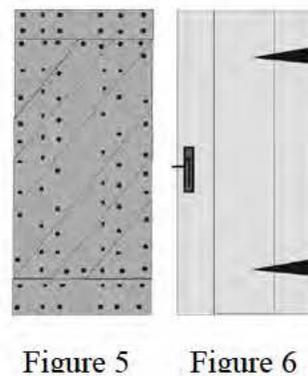
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## Appendix B - Making Doors

Our standard door here at Bearicuda Inc. is a solid 2" pine door which we construct from the same material we use for our siding and trim. Begin with three boards whose combined widths are 2" wider and 3" longer than the finished door opening. Place a clamp approximately one quarter from the ends of the board on each side and tighten. Take two more boards the width of the rough door, set them perpendicular to the three clamped boards and screw them in place as shown (fig. 1). Remove the clamps Lay another board diagonally across the door so that it touches the corner of the two cross pieces and secure in place as shown (fig. 2). Be sure that the screws are set 3/4 - 1" from the edges of the long boards



Fill in the pieces on either side of the first piece and screw into place as shown making sure once again that the screws land on either side of the seam (fig. 3). Cut one side of the door straight, and finish cut the width 5/8" less than the finished door opening (fig. 4)



Square off the top, cut to length and install the hinges. Install the exterior door trim on which the door will be hinged and hang the door. Secure the door in place temporarily and apply the other two pieces of door trim. With single doors, have an assistant hold the door flush with the exterior trim and install 1x2 doorstop around the interior doorframe. On models with two doors, it is possible to accomplish this yourself. Install the hardware and the door is done.

On double doors, there is a primary and a secondary door; the primary door is the one that opens first and will probably get the most use. The secondary door gets a foot latch at the bottom and a pull latch at the top. The primary door gets a 1x3 mullion strip. Depending on your choice of hardware, it may be necessary to place a block on the secondary door to accept the latch.

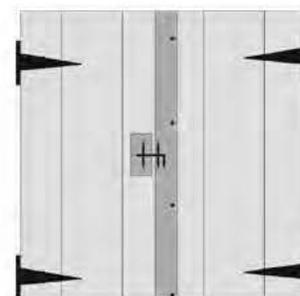


Figure 7 - double





## Appendix C – Site Choice – Site Preparation – Foundation Options

### Site Choice

Choose a site that is both **level** and **accessible**. Take into consideration water drainage from both the land and the building. Pitch the water away from the shed. Moisture will cause decay and rot, significantly reducing the life of the building.

### Site Preparation

Site preparation varies from site to site. The goals in preparing your site are to make sure that your site is level and will drain properly. **A building that is not level will cause the doors to function improperly and the ramp to not fit correctly.** If the slope is greater than 6 inches, it is suggested to have the site leveled in advance. To get the surface **as level as possible**, remove any sod, soft dirt or weeds. The area should be solid to minimize the chance of the building sinking out of level. We recommend using a transit when leveling your site. If one is not available you may also use a 4' level. The dug out area may then be completed with a 3 to 4 inch compacted gravel bed, concrete stepping stones, or pressure-treated wood. Digging out and leveling the area in which to place the gravel bed will leave you with a gravel bed that is level and flush with the landscape, as opposed to appearing as a mound above the



landscape. When leveling your site, it is also important to take into consideration your shed entrance and ramp. **The site must be level for approximately 5' in front of your entrance door** so that the ground your ramp sits on is level with the building. If this area is not level, your ramp may not fit properly or may be too steep for its intended use. If using a gravel bed, **we recommend compacted gravel** as opposed to loose. This is, again, to minimize the chance of the building shifting or sinking out of level. The changes in the seasons can cause the earth to heave and give pushing the shed out of level. If this happens the building can be re-leveled by manipulating the site or using wood shims. Poor drainage can be overcome by first laying a gravel bed regardless of the foundation options you choose. This will keep the shed dry and keep it from sinking. A 3 to 4 inch gravel bed is always

encouraged. Poor drainage will result in a reduced building life. Proper site preparation is encouraged; hiring a professional excavator before the building arrives will prevent the cottage from being "perched". An improperly prepared site will void our warranty.

### Foundation Options

Several choices exist when choosing a foundation. We recommend constructing a foundation using cement blocks. You can also pour a concrete slab or piers, which will provide a safe and solid foundation, but it's a little more costly.

#### Cement blocks

It is economical and durable to have the small building sit on heavy skids and rest on cement blocks. This is the way the majority of our buildings are installed.

#### Poured slab

And yet another choice would be to lay a slab of concrete, brick or patio stone and build your walls off of it, eliminating the need for a wood floor. A 12" thick compacted gravel pad should be in place before you lay your slab. The slab should be a minimum of 4" thick in the center, reinforced with wire mesh, and at least 6" thick on the edges where it will bear the weight. Our buildings weigh an average of between 3,000 and 6,000 lbs and are crafted with 6x6 pressure treated sill plates. Therefore, these buildings will not go anywhere unless you are in an area with extremely high winds. If you do find it necessary to fasten your building to your slab we suggest that you use metal strapping. When your slab is poured you can have flexible metal strapping installed to fasten the building to the concrete slab. If you have an existing concrete slab that you would like to attach your building to, we recommend attaching with a ramset, a high-powered nail gun.

#### Concrete piers

Cement piers that reach below the frost line are fine for the foundation of your new shed. This choice requires playing with concrete and having the ability to square the tubes. A deck that is not square will cause the entire structure to be untrue. When placing an order ask for the dimensions for the concrete piers that will correctly fit your size building.

#### *Will I need a permit?*

Each town is different. Most do not require a permit for a building less than 150 square feet. A set back of 25 feet from the property line is common. Bearicuda will help and advise but leaves all local and state requirements the responsibility of the client.





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### Appendix C – Site Choice – Site Preparation – Foundation Options

#### Proper Care and Maintenance

Protect your investment by preserving the building. Paint or stain to match your satisfaction. For a deep rich natural finish we recommend a clear coat preservative such as linseed oil that will enhance the rustic charm of the product. This will leave you with a fully protected building from moisture, decay and insect contamination. We suggest the cottage be left to cure for a season before treating and be maintained with a coat every five years. The materials we use are rot resistant, but wood is a natural substance that will fall prey to Mother Nature if not taken care of.

It is important to make sure that the trees, saplings and shrubbery do not overgrow your shed. You want your new cottage to maintain as much airflow as possible, so as to allow it ample ability to dry out. Also, if your building will be in a heavy snowfall area, such as Vermont, you should take into consideration the pine trees surrounding it. If your shed sits under pine trees, the sap from these trees will inhibit the roof from properly shedding the snow. This can cause serious damage to your shed if the snow gets too heavy and is not removed.



You should never stack firewood, or anything else that will prohibit airflow, up against your shed.

Never leave your shed's doors open in the rain. Also, do not allow debris such as mulch, grass cuttings, etc. to pile up in or around your building. Anything that holds moisture should be kept away from your cottage

The cottage is strategically placed off the ground to prevent moisture build up and encourage air circulation. Many clients have opted to use lattice to shield the sight of the foundation supports, however we suggest a field stone foundation dry laid under the perimeter walls. This will enhance the aesthetics and give an impression of a much more substantial look. The false dry laid foundation will fit in with the décor and the authentication of the building materials. A true country charm is created.

Please visit the FAQ page on our website for more information. [www.bearicuda.com](http://www.bearicuda.com)

#### Termite protection and Pest control

We recommend an aluminum termite shield for termite prone areas. The shield is installed between the cement blocks and the skids it should extend 2" out from the cement block on all sides and then descend on a 45° angle, extending another 2". This forms a metal barrier that will prevent termites from building their mud tunnels up the foundation. In order to keep pests from making their homes in your new shed, Jamaica Cottage Shop suggests a solar powered pest repellent using ultra sonic sound. No maintenance required as with other pest controls such as changing batteries and or fooling around with poisons. Creepers, climbers, saplings, shrubbery and other vegetation should not be permitted to overgrow the building. Likewise pushing the cottage tight to a fence, building or tree will inhibit air circulation and or create a passage for insects. To prevent pests from finding a way into the building we have a few suggestions. Instead of strapping under the metal roof request a solid sheathed roof, or change the roofing material from corrugated metal to asphalt shingles.

