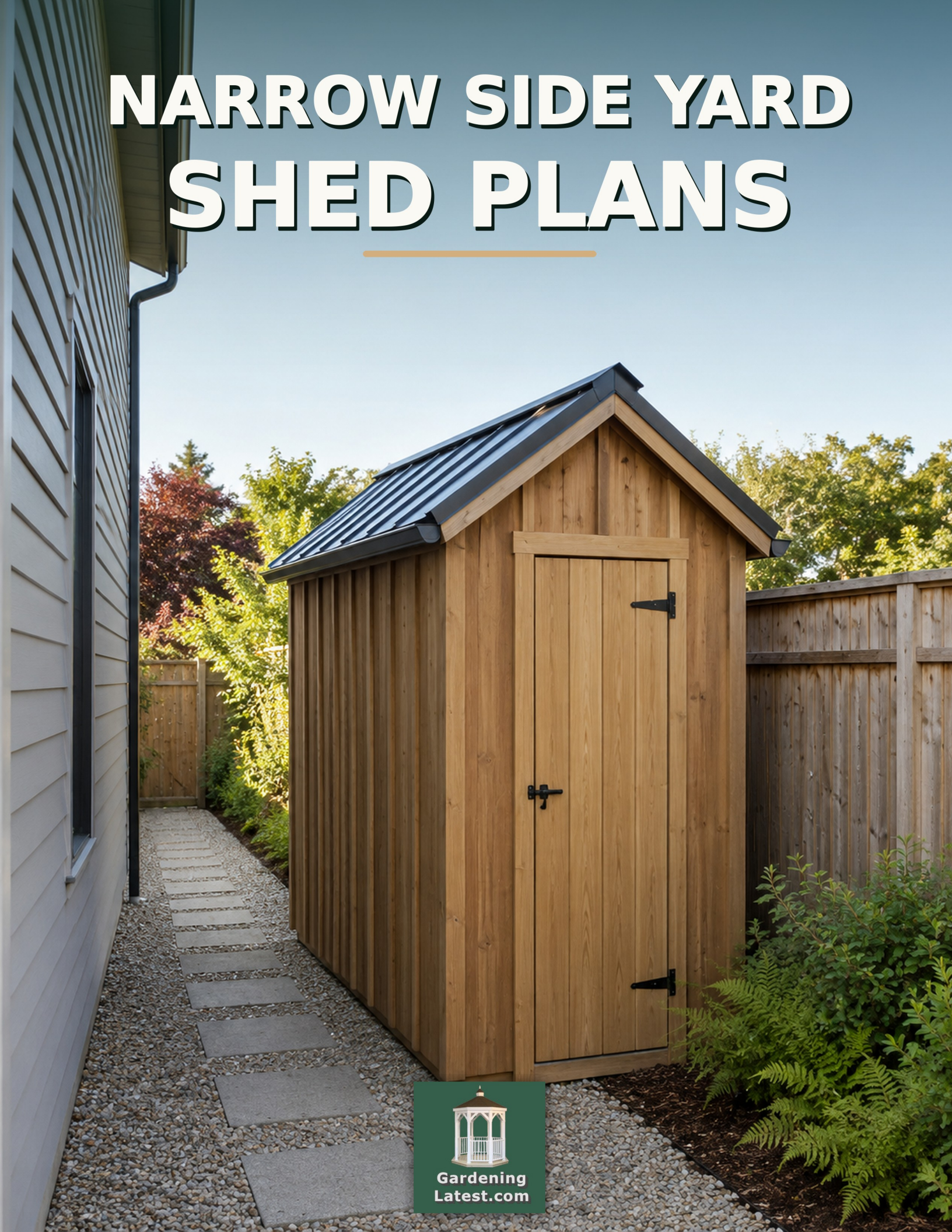
NARROW SIDE YARD SHED PLANS

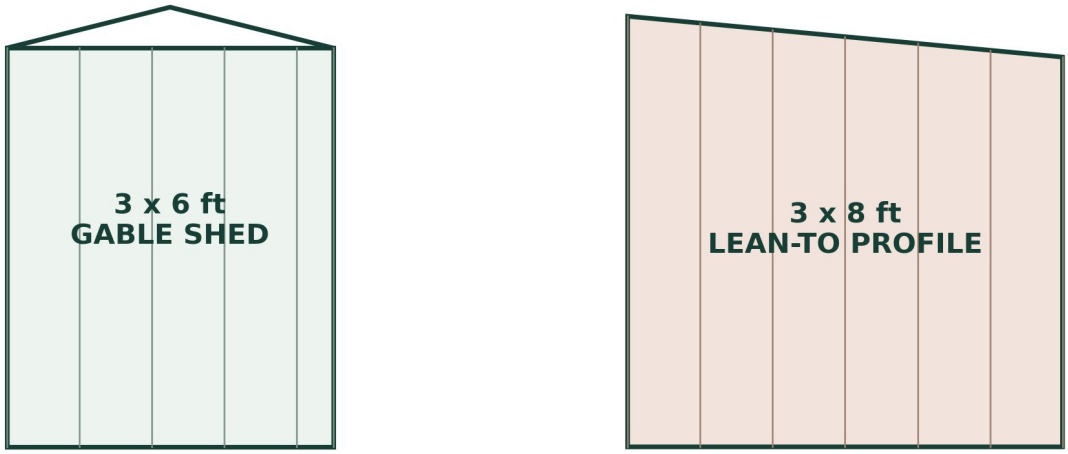


Gardening Latest.com

DIY BUILDING GUIDE

Narrow Side Yard Shed Plans

A freestanding gable shed and an independent lean-to profile



Two small timber structures sized for tight passages.

PLAN STATUS Homeowner construction drawings for light, non-habitable garden storage. Confirm local setbacks, permits, height limits, frost depth and required structural loads before buying materials.

Based on the article “Slimline Garden Sheds That Fit Perfectly in Narrow Side Yards.”

Read this before cutting timber

A narrow shed succeeds or fails in the passage around it. Mark the full footprint first. Then test the remaining route with the widest object that travels between the gate and garden.

Top view: test the side yard before the build

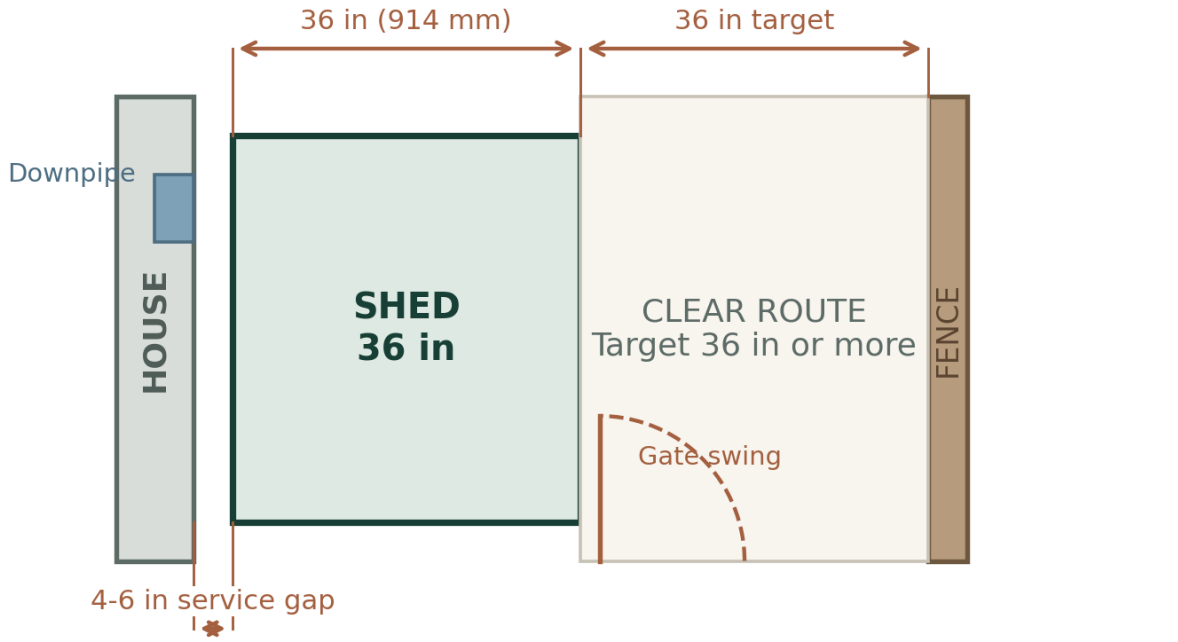


Figure 1. A planning target, not a substitute for local access rules.

Rules shared by both plans

- Leave windows, vents, taps, drains, meters and utility boxes clear.
- Choose the hinge side only after marking the gate swing and the walking route.
- Keep untreated siding at least 6 in (150 mm) above soil and direct roof water away from the house.
- Use hot-dip galvanized or stainless fasteners where metal touches treated timber.
- Use a ground-anchor set rated for the wind at your site. Fit one close to each skid corner.

LOAD CHECK The member sizes suit a small garden store in ordinary conditions. Ask a local structural professional to revise the frame for heavy snow, cyclones or hurricanes, flood zones, seismic demands, weak soil or a roof covering heavier than sheet metal.

Plan A: 3 x 6 ft freestanding gable shed

This version is short enough to leave turning room near a gate, yet tall enough for long tools. The narrow end door opens into the passage. Shallow shelves run lengthwise so the floor route stays usable.

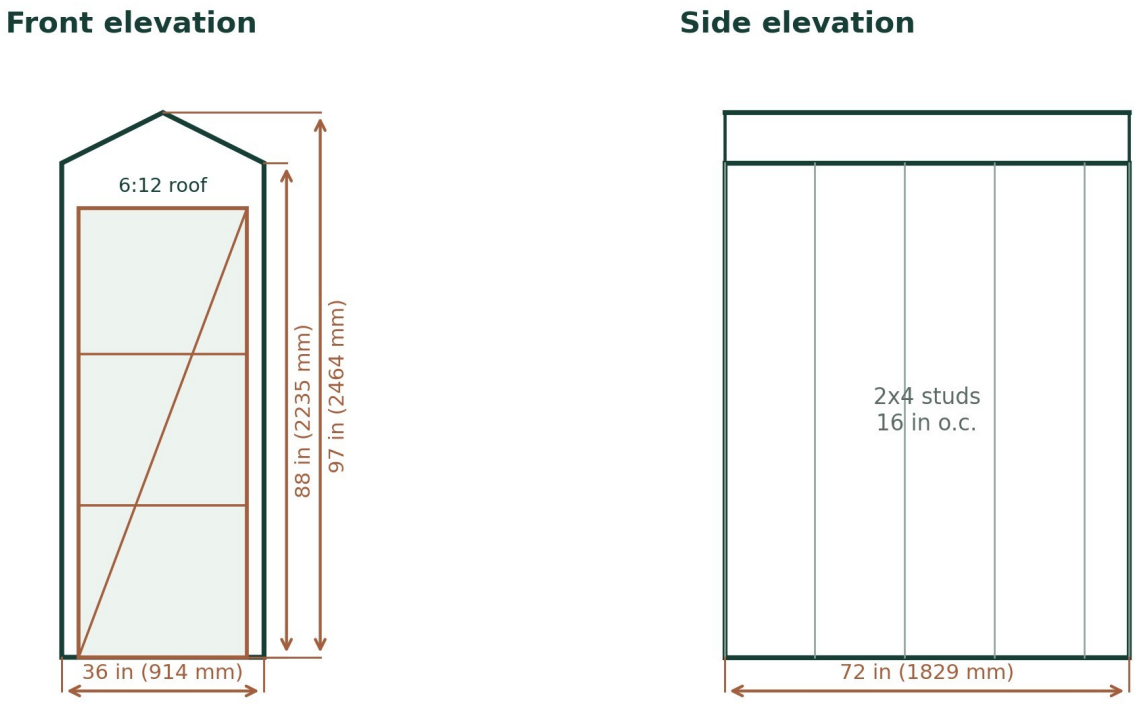


Figure 2. Plan A front and side elevations. Dimensions are taken from the top of the floor deck.

Plan point	Specified size or rule
Footprint	36 x 72 in (914 x 1829 mm)
Wall and ridge	88 in eaves and 97 in ridge (2235 and 2464 mm)
Door opening	30 x 80 in rough opening (762 x 2032 mm)
Roof	6:12 pitch with sheet-metal covering
Best use	Long tools, pots, watering gear and one compact machine

Plan A base and floor frame

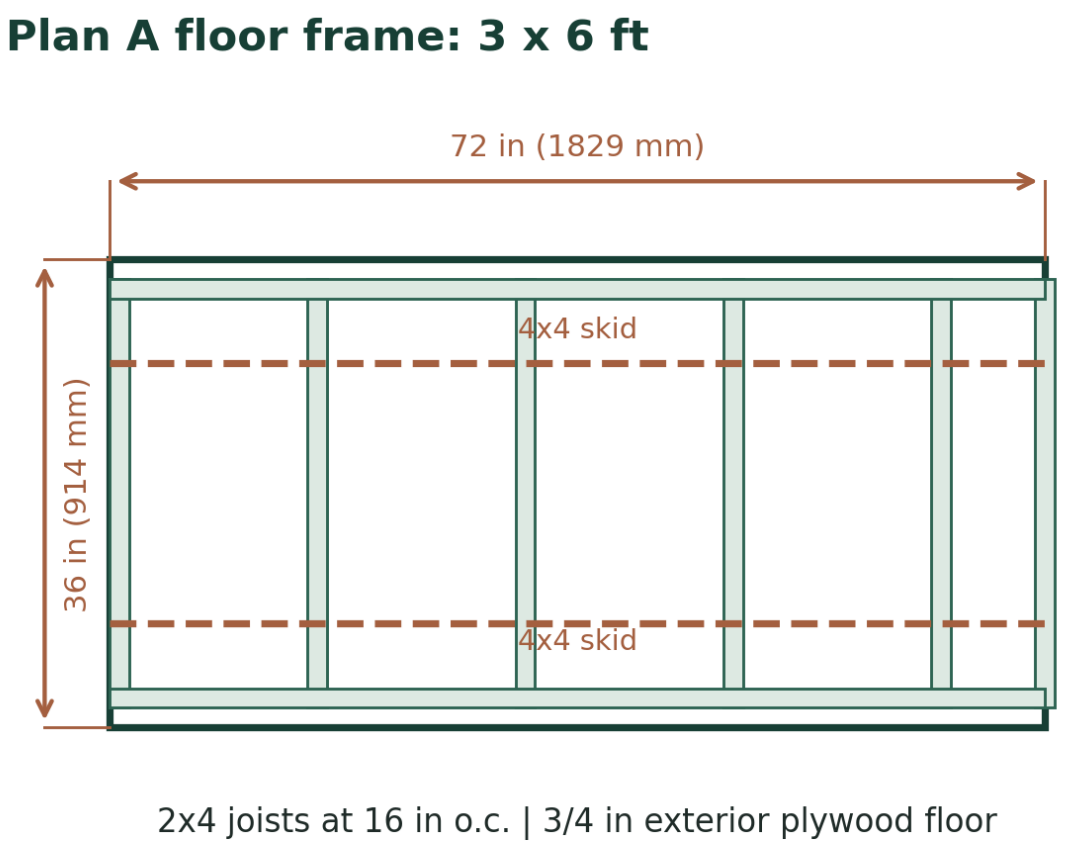


Figure 3. Plan A floor frame. End blocking and internal joists are 33 in long.

Foundation build

- Remove turf and soft organic soil from a pad about 12 in wider than the shed.
- Place 4 in (100 mm) of compacted crushed stone. Set four solid concrete pavers or approved deck blocks on firm bearing.
- Lay the two 4x4 skids parallel and 24 in apart, measured center to center. Level them across their width and length.
- Build the 2x4 floor frame with exterior structural screws or galvanized nails. Check the two diagonals. Each should read about 80 1/2 in (2045 mm).
- Fix the frame to the skids. Add the 3/4 in floor sheet with a 1/8 in gap at any joined panel edge.

Cold regions: if local rules call for footings below frost depth, replace the pavers with approved piers and anchors.

Plan A wall and roof frame

Cross-section: gable roof and wall tie

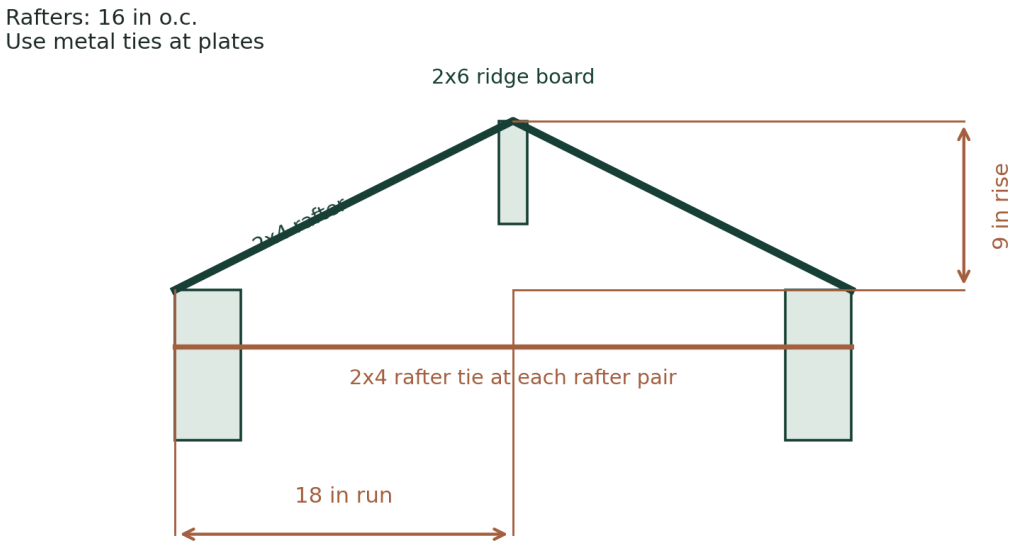


Figure 4. Each rafter pair needs a low tie. The ties stop the walls spreading.

Framing sequence

- Build both 72 in side walls flat on the floor. Use 83 1/2 in studs at 16 in o.c. with one bottom plate and two top plates.
- Build the rear end wall. Add the gable infill after the four rectangular walls are standing.
- Frame the front wall around a centered 30 x 80 in opening. Use one king stud and one jack stud on each side. Fit a double 2x4 header with a 1/2 in plywood spacer.
- Raise the walls with a helper. Screw the corners, plumb each wall and add temporary braces. Lap the second top plates over the corners.
- Set the 2x6 ridge and six rafter pairs. Fit a 2x4 tie at every pair and a metal rafter connector at each wall plate.
- Lay 1/2 in roof sheathing with 1/8 in gaps. Add underlayment, drip edges and sheet-metal roofing to the panel maker's instructions.

DO NOT IMPROVISE HERE Drywall screws are brittle and belong indoors. Use exterior structural screws or the galvanized nails stated in the fastener schedule.

Plan A materials and cut list

Nominal sizes are shown. A 2x4 normally measures about 1 1/2 x 3 1/2 in (38 x 89 mm). Buy straight, dry framing stock and pressure-treated timber only where the plan marks PT.

Qty	Part	Cut size	Notes
2	**PT 4x4 skids**	72 in	Set 24 in o.c.
2	**PT 2x4 rim joists**	72 in	Floor long sides
6	**PT 2x4 floor joists**	33 in	Ends plus internal joists
1	**3/4 in exterior plywood**	36 x 72 in	Floor deck
12	**2x4 side-wall studs**	83 1/2 in	Six per long wall
6	**2x4 long-wall plates**	72 in	Bottom and double top
6	**2x4 end-wall plates**	36 in	Bottom and double top
5	**2x4 full end studs**	83 1/2 in	Rear wall plus front kings
2	**2x4 door jacks**	Cut to fit	Set 30 x 80 in opening
2	**2x4 header plies**	33 in	Add 1/2 in spacer
12	**2x4 rafters**	Start at 24 in	Final cut at 6:12
6	**2x4 rafter ties**	33 in	One per rafter pair
1	**2x6 ridge board**	72 in	Straight stock
1	**1/2 in roof sheathing**	Cut two roof planes	Leave 1/8 in gaps
5	**5/8 in exterior panel siding**	4 x 8 ft sheets	Door face comes from cutout
9	**1x4 exterior trim**	8 ft stock	Corners, door and fascia

Allow about 34 untreated 2x4 x 8 ft boards if buying stock lengths. This includes blocking and a small waste allowance. Roofing, vents, anchors, hinges, latch, paint and fasteners are listed on page 13.

Plan A build order

- Set out the 36 x 72 in footprint and recheck the gate, services and clear route.
- Build the gravel pad, set the pavers and level the skids.
- Assemble the floor frame, check both diagonals and fasten the plywood deck.
- Frame the two long walls, rear wall and door wall flat on the deck.
- Raise, brace and join the walls. Cut out the bottom plate inside the doorway after the front wall is secure.
- Fit the end rafter pairs and ridge first. Add the remaining pairs, ties and metal connectors.
- Sheath and dry-in the roof before fitting wall siding.
- Fit panel siding with its grooves vertical. Hold the bottom edge 6 in above soil. Seal every cut edge.
- Build the ledged door from the front-wall cutout. Hang it on three strap hinges so it can fold back toward the shed wall.
- Add screened high and low vents, corner trim, drip edges, latch and four ground anchors.

Fast checks before loading it

- Door clears the fence, gate and path through its whole swing.
- Roof water lands in a drain, gravel strip or gutter route that stays away from the house.
- No siding edge, skid or floor frame touches soil.
- Walls are plumb, the door gap is even and every temporary brace has been removed.

Plan B: 3 x 8 ft independent lean-to profile

This version follows a long house wall while staying structurally separate from it. The high side sits nearest the house. The roof falls toward the passage-side gutter, so runoff can't be pushed against the building.

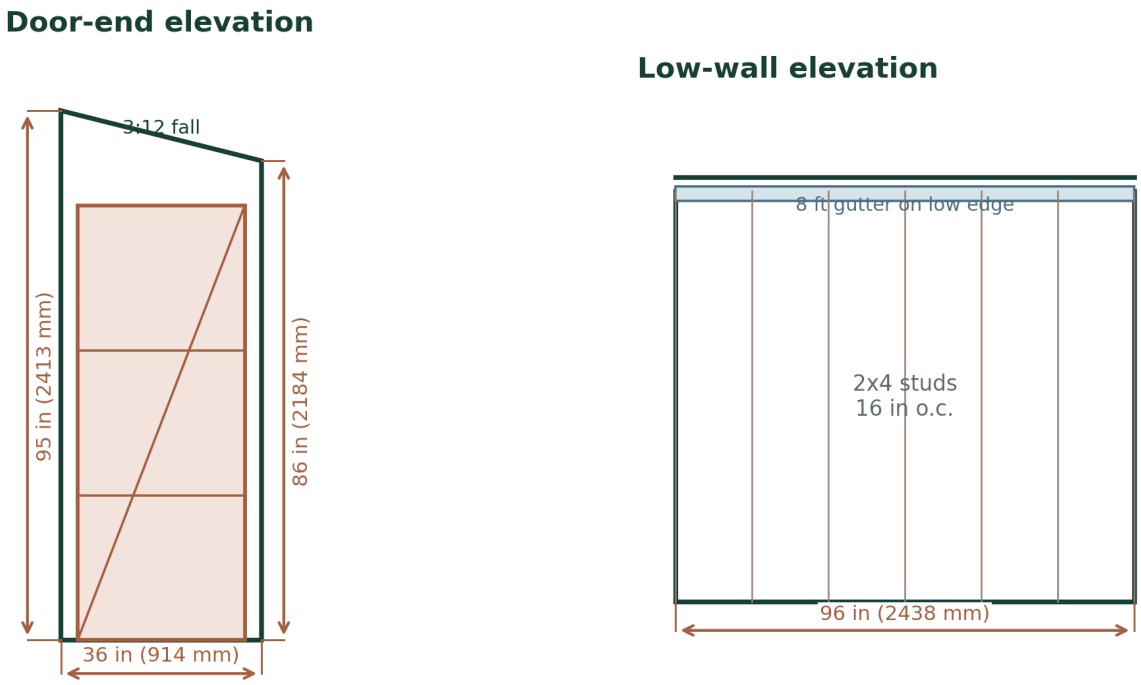


Figure 5. Plan B door-end and low-wall elevations. Dimensions start at the floor deck.

Plan point	Specified size or rule
Footprint	36 x 96 in (914 x 2438 mm)
High and low walls	95 and 86 in (2413 and 2184 mm)
Door opening	30 x 78 in rough opening (762 x 1981 mm)
Roof	3:12 pitch falling away from the house
Best use	Long tools, folding chairs, bike gear and lengthwise shelving

Plan B base and floor frame

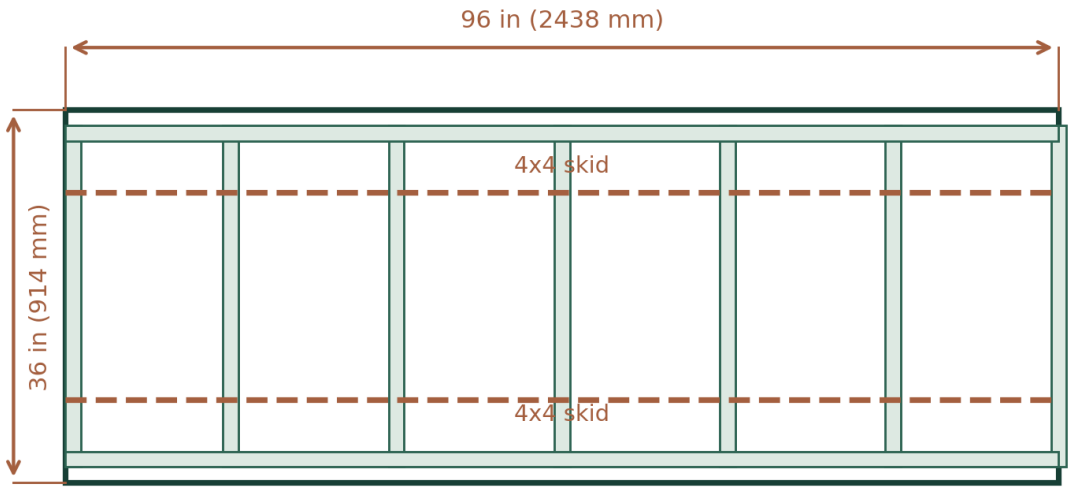


Figure 6. Plan B floor frame. The 8 ft deck uses one full-length sheet cut to 36 in wide.

Position beside the house

- Leave a 4 to 6 in (100 to 150 mm) inspection gap between the shed and house. Increase it where cladding, local fire rules or repairs need more room.
- Keep the high roof edge below windows, vents and the house gutter. Do not bridge the gap with flashing unless a local professional designs the attachment.
- Put the low edge and gutter toward the safe drainage side. Check that the gutter won't cut into shoulder or head room.
- Use the same gravel pad and paver method as Plan A. The floor-frame diagonals should both read about 102 1/2 in (2604 mm).

HOUSE WALL This plan has its own high wall, rafters and ground anchors. Nothing is screwed into the house. That avoids hidden pipes and a badly flashed ledger.

Plan B wall, roof and drainage

Cross-section: independent lean-to beside the house

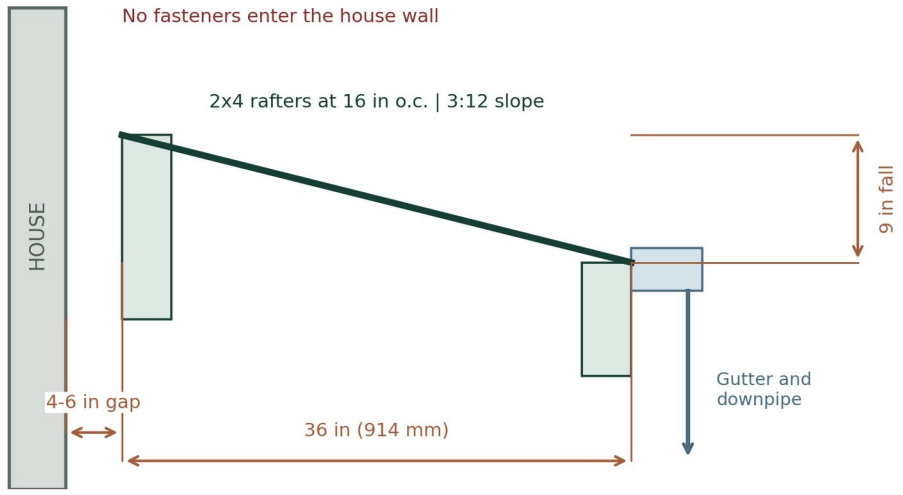


Figure 7. The high side stands clear of the building and the low gutter takes all roof water.

Framing sequence

- Build the 95 in high wall with 90 1/2 in studs. Build the 86 in low wall with 81 1/2 in studs. Use 16 in o.c. spacing and double top plates.
- Build both 36 in end walls between the long walls. Their upper plates follow the 3:12 roof line.
- Frame a centered 30 x 78 in opening in the chosen end. Fit the level double 2x4 header as high as the low-side framing allows.
- Raise the high wall first and brace it. Add the low wall and both ends, then lap the second top plates at the corners.
- Set seven 2x4 rafters at 16 in o.c. Use metal connectors at both wall plates.
- Fit the 1/2 in roof deck with 1/8 in edge gaps. Add underlayment and a metal panel rated by its maker for a 3:12 slope.
- Fit an 8 ft gutter to the low fascia. Pipe the water to an approved drain, water butt or gravel discharge point away from both foundations.

Plan B materials and cut list

Qty	Part	Cut size	Notes
2	**PT 4x4 skids**	96 in	Set 24 in o.c.
2	**PT 2x4 rim joists**	96 in	Floor long sides
7	**PT 2x4 floor joists**	33 in	Ends plus internal joists
1	**3/4 in exterior plywood**	36 x 96 in	Floor deck
7	**2x4 high-wall studs**	90 1/2 in	16 in o.c.
7	**2x4 low-wall studs**	81 1/2 in	16 in o.c.
6	**2x4 long-wall plates**	96 in	Bottom and double top
2	**2x4 end bottom plates**	36 in	Cut door plate later
4	**2x4 sloped top plates**	Start at 38 in	Trim to 3:12
5	**2x4 full end studs**	Cut to roof line	Rear wall plus front kings
2	**2x4 door jacks**	Cut to fit	Set 30 x 78 in opening
2	**2x4 header plies**	33 in	Add 1/2 in spacer
7	**2x4 rafters**	Start at 42 in	Final cut at 3:12
1	**1/2 in roof sheathing**	40 x 96 in	Includes small eaves
6	**5/8 in exterior panel siding**	4 x 8 ft sheets	Seal every cut edge
10	**1x4 exterior trim**	8 ft stock	Corners, door and fascia
1	**Gutter and downpipe**	8 ft gutter	Low roof edge

Allow about 38 untreated 2x4 x 8 ft boards if buying stock lengths. The count includes blocking and waste. Where 96 in plates must stay full length, buy straight 8 ft pieces and protect their ends from damage.

Plan B build order

- Mark the house gap, 36 x 96 in footprint, gutter line and clear passage.
- Build the pad and floor. Square the frame before fixing it to both skids.
- Frame the high and low walls flat. Mark stud positions from the same end so roof rafters line up.
- Frame the door-end and rear walls with sloped upper plates. Check the door header against the low-side height before fastening it.
- Raise and brace the four walls. Measure the top corners diagonally and correct any twist.
- Set rafters, connectors and roof deck. Dry-in the roof on the same day if rain is possible.
- Add siding, fascia and corner trim. Fit the gutter before the passage becomes crowded with stored items.
- Build and hang the door. Fit a stop so wind can't throw it into the fence or house.
- Add vents and ground anchors. Test the downpipe with a hose before loading the shed.

A useful lengthwise interior

Run one 8 to 10 in shelf along the high wall above shoulder height. Put tool clips on the low wall. Leave the first 24 in inside the door open for a mower, folded chair or bike wheel. Heavy bags stay low and close to the skids.

DO NOT OVERFILL IT Deep shelving steals the working strip fast. If you have to turn sideways to reach the back, remove a shelf rather than narrowing the floor route.

Door, storage and common hardware

Figure 8. Reuse the door-opening siding cutout, then stiffen it with three rails and a diagonal brace.

Common hardware and finishes

- Exterior structural screws or galvanized framing nails, plus treated-timber connectors. Do not use drywall screws.
- Four rated ground anchors with straps or cables suited to the chosen skid base.
- Three strap hinges, a latch, door pull, stop, two screened vents and insect mesh.
- Roof underlayment, drip edges, closure strips and matching screws stated by the roof-panel maker.
- Exterior sealant, primer or stain, topcoat and end-grain sealer.

Suggested fastening pattern

Plan point	Specified size or rule
Frame joints	Two 3 in exterior structural screws per stud end, or code-approved galvanized nails
Floor deck	2 in exterior screws at 6 in along edges and 12 in in the field
Roof deck	8d galvanized nails at 6 in along supported edges and 12 in in the field, unless local rules call for closer spacing
Panel siding	Follow the siding stamp or maker's edge and field schedule
Metal roof	Use only the washer screws and locations stated by the panel maker

Final checks and source notes

Before the first rainy night

- Confirm the shed is anchored, square and plumb.
- Seal raw siding edges, door cuts and trim joints.
- Check the roof screws, drip edges and gutter fall.
- Run water over the roof and watch where it leaves the downpipe.
- Open the gate and shed door together. Neither should trap the other.
- Walk the path with the widest bin or machine you own.
- Photograph hidden framing before covering it. Repairs are easier when you know where every stud sits.

Technical notes used in these plans

Building permission. If your area uses the 2024 International Residential Code, its model rule lists one-story detached accessory structures up to 200 sq ft as permit-exempt. Local amendments, zoning rules and setbacks can still apply. Outside IRC areas, check with the council or building office that controls your address.

ICC 2024 IRC, Section R105.2

Panel gaps. APA recommends a 1/8 in gap at plywood and OSB edges to allow normal movement.

APA Builder Tip: Prevent Buckling with Proper Spacing

Treated-timber fasteners. The American Wood Council advises zinc-coated fasteners and connectors with protection at least equal to hot-dip galvanized products.

American Wood Council FAQs

Roof selection. These drawings use 3:12 or steeper roof slopes. Buy a metal panel whose written installation guide accepts the stated pitch, support spacing and local loads.

Metal Construction Association: Show Your Mettle

BUILD PAUSE Stop work if the base settles, the frame won't stay plumb, the roof line twists or local rules require stamped drawings. Fixing the cause at that stage costs far less than hiding it behind siding.