

## HOW TO BUILD A CONCRETE SLAB FOR A GARDEN SHED

Garden sheds typically require relatively small concrete slabs, so this is a task that you and one other helper can complete without a lot of effort. Just follow the seven easy steps and you will have your garden shed concrete slab in place in no time at all.

### The right concrete mix.

How thick should a shed slab be?

Your slab should be 100mm thick.

### Step One: Choose the Right Concrete

Concrete is available in several different grades. It is important to select the right grade for your concrete shed slab. Grade N32 is designed for areas like driveways. You do not need that high of a grade, but you should not use something that is as weak as grade N10. Grade N25 will give you a nice finish and should be more than strong enough for your concrete slab floor. One shortcut is to order your concrete and have it delivered to you. Tell the company the purpose of the concrete. Ordering premixed concrete will save you time, but it will cost you extra money.

### Step Two: Mark and Measure the Area for the Slab

Figure out precisely where your concrete flooring will be located. Mark out the exact area with string line and stakes. Use a measuring tape to get the exact measurements of the slab of concrete that you will need. These measurements will be used to calculate the amount of concrete that you will need to order.

### How to measure your slab.

The steps for making this calculation are as follows:

Determine the area of the slab floor, which is measured as length times width.

Calculate the area in cubic metres. To do this, multiply the area in metres squared by the desired thickness of the floor in metres.

Example: If your shed concrete slab needs to measure 4 metres by 4 metres, its area is 16 metres squared. For a thickness of 200 mm, you need to multiply 16 by 0.2, which results in a total of 3.2 cubic metres.

Make sure to add an extra 10% to accommodate any errors or mishaps; in this case, you would multiply 3.2 cubic metres by 1.1 to arrive at a total of approximately 3.5 cubic metres, which is the total amount of concrete that you will need to mix or order.



**Always allow 10% more than you will need.**

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### Step Three: Create the Formwork for Your Concrete Pad

#### Preparing the ground.

Make sure you know where your sewer runs before you dig.

The next step in laying a concrete slab for your garden shed is creating the formwork that will support the wet concrete while it dries, sets and cures. The measurements that you made in the preceding step will come in handy here. First, make sure to have the right tools and supplies on hand. In terms of tools, you will need a hammer, timber pegs, a level, a measuring tape, digging tools and a carpenter's square. In terms of materials, you will need timber that is the same height as the desired thickness of your concrete floor slabs. Based on our example above, two of the lengths of timber will need to measure four metres; the two other pieces will need to measure 4.2 or 4.8 metres in length. The end result needs to produce an internal measurement that adds up to the desired dimensions of the garden shed slab.

Once you have assembled the appropriate tools and supplies, place the pieces of timber in the right formation. Before you nail them together, use your carpenter's square to ensure straight, true right angles. Position the completed framework precisely where you want to build a concrete slab. Mark the area so that you can see exactly where you will need to dig.

### Step Four: Prepare the Ground and Position the Framework

Now that you have marked the area where the concrete slab for your garden shed will go, you need to dig it to accommodate the required depth and dimensions. Dig out the marked area so that the top of the slab will be at the right height. In most cases, this means that you need to dig deep enough so that the concrete is flush with ground level. Remove any roots or other obstructions. Level and compact the subsoil to reduce the risk of settling and slippage. At this point, you will be able to position the framework. Double-check to make sure that it is absolutely level. Hammer in one timber peg per metre. Saw them off so that they are level and do not protrude.



**Take your time. Getting a level slab is really important.**

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### Step Five: Pour and Level the Concrete

For the purposes of a concrete slab for a garden shed, you do not need to worry about using reinforcing mesh. Prior to pouring the wet concrete, make sure that everything is ready. Have the following tools on hand: a concrete finishing trowel, a shovel, a straight screed or a straight piece of timber and an edging tool. Pour the concrete from one end of the prepared area. Level it out roughly as you go with a shovel. Tamp it well into the corners to avoid missing any spots. When the entire framework is filled, have another person help you pull the screed over the freshly poured concrete from one end to the other. Repeat the process a few times to produce a true, level surface. It should be flat, but it will also be watery.

#### Pouring concrete

Do I need steel reinforcing in a shed slab?

No.

### Step Six: Finishing the Concrete

An important part in laying a slab is finishing it; concrete slab floors must be finished before they are ready to be used. You will know the time is right when the surface water begins to sink in and the concrete begins to set. At this point, use the trowel to smooth the surface. A steel trowel will produce an especially sleek, smooth surface. If you plan to use water in your garden shed, be careful – smooth concrete can be very slippery when it is wet. To avoid slips and falls, use a broom to roughen the surface.

### How Much Concrete Do I Need?

Your slab should be 100mm bigger than the base dimensions of your shed. This will allow for a 50mm edge around your shed. We recommend that you slope the 50mm edges downward by 10 mm so that rain water will drain away from your shed.



Let your slab cure for 3-4 days before you begin to build your shed.

Shed Size	Slab Size	Number 20kg Bags of Concrete Mix Required
1.5m x 0.8m	1620mm x 815mm x 100mm	5
1.5m x 1.4m	1620mm x 1500mm x 100mm	9
2.3m x 1.5m	2360mm x 1620mm x 100mm	14
3.0m x 1.5m	3100mm x 1620mm x 100mm	19
2.3m x 2.3m	2360mm x 2360mm x 100mm	20
3.0m x 2.3m	3110mm x 2360mm x 100mm	28
3.0m x 3.0m	3110mm x 3110mm x 100mm	35



## HOW TO BUILD A CONCRETE SLAB FOR A GARDEN SHED

This guide has been put together by the team at Sheds4Less.

We hope that you have found this document of some help.

Our objective is to make buying and building a garden shed easier.

Please visit our website at [www.Sheds4less.com.au](http://www.Sheds4less.com.au) for a great range of garden sheds plus more tips on how to make the job easier

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alex" with a stylized flourish underneath.