



Sheds, Storage & *Summerhouses*

The Importance of a Level Base

If you have an existing base and think it's suitable for your new Shed or Summerhouse to be sited on, it is imperative you check that it is level and doesn't deviate by any more than 15mm from edge to edge. If this isn't the case the building will twist, causing gaps to appear in the sections and the roof, doors and windows to misalign.

To check that your base is level, place a straight edged piece of timber across the length of the base and place a spirit level on top of the timber near the centre. The bubble in the spirit level should sit comfortably within the 2 centre lines. Repeat the process across the width of the base.



If the base is not level, it is important that you rectify the problem before any installation can begin.

Suitable Bases

Timber Base

A timber base can be constructed from tanalised (Pressure Treated) 3"x 2" timber joists nailed together to form a frame. The frame is levelled by driving 1.5"x1.5" timber stakes into the ground at various points around the base and fixing the timber joist to these stakes. Shed bases are also available to buy pre-made - please make sure you purchase one correctly sized and compatible to the structure you are installing.



Concrete

Concrete is by far the best material for any size base to be constructed from. One of the biggest advantages is that it won't shift due to the movement of the sub soil beneath the base, a problem that can occur with other types of base.

A concrete base should ideally sit on a good dressing of sharp sand and hardcore to allow for adequate drainage of rainwater.



Concrete Slabs

Concrete slabs are the next best alternative to a concrete base. The slabs should be laid in such a way to form a continuous base with no large gaps between each slab.

As with a concrete base, a concrete slab base should ideally sit on a good dressing of sharp sand and hardcore to allow for adequate drainage of rainwater.



Pro Shed Base

Made from 100% recycled plastic this base is eco friendly, plus it can be reused if you wish to reposition your shed in your garden. This handy base also allows for ventilation underneath your shed keeping it dry.

Its interlocking design makes it easy to put together and although it is lightweight it provides a very strong and durable base for your shed.



Concrete, concrete slabs, correctly sized timber shed bases or a Pro/Eco base system are the most suitable types to cope with UK weather conditions and potential sub soil erosion. We do not recommend any other materials for the construction of your base. We also recommend that all bases are constructed by a qualified tradesperson.

If you have taken out our installation service and purchased a Timber Base as part of your purchase with Forest Garden it will be installed by our installation team. Provided that the ground it will sit upon is of a gradient of no more than 65mm across the length or width of the base and is clear of obstructions and not saturated with water.

Unsuitable Bases

The example images below show unsuitable bases which would result in an aborted assembly by our fitting teams if you have taken out our installation service. An unlevel base means the walls will not sit square to the floor. This will cause the structure to be unsecure and pull apart over time.



A mixture of broken slabs with no cement filled gaps.



A base of soil only.



Not level due to sub soil movement beneath ground and gaps between the slabs.



Unevenly lying slabs directly on top of a lawn.