Site Preparation



How To Build A Foundation

A solid foundation is the key to a long-lasting shed. We want to help you create a sturdy, level base for your shed—without confusion or guesswork. Whether you're a DIY pro or first-timer, this guide walks you through clear, step-by-step instructions and multiple foundation options.

Three Recommended Foundation Types:

Patio Stones

Pressure-Treated 4×4 Beams

Concrete Slab

STEP 1: Choose Your Foundation Type

PATIO STONE FOUNDATION

• Best for small to medium sheds on stable ground.

Quick to install, affordable, and easy to move or adjust dimensions.



4×4 PRESSURE-TREATED BEAM FOUNDATION

• Ideal for slightly uneven terrain or areas where airflow is needed beneath the shed.

Leaves room underneath for ventilation and helps prevent rot.

CONCRETE SLAB FOUNDATION

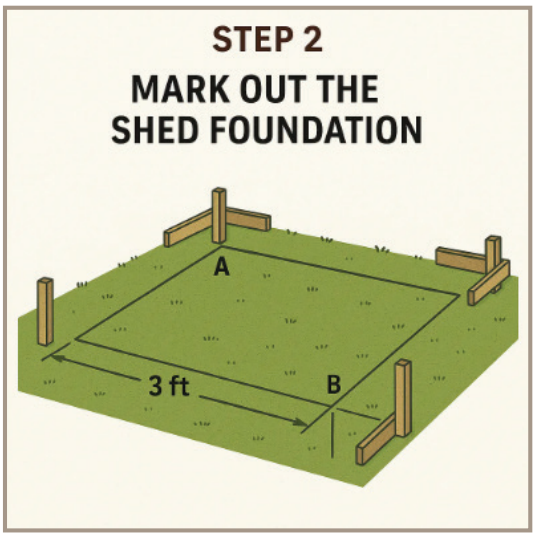
• Best for large, heavy-duty sheds or long-term placement.

Most permanent option. Offers unbeatable durability and pest resistance.



STEP 2: Mark Out the Shed Foundation

• Pick one corner (Point A) and drive a stake into the ground.
• From Corner A, measure the length of the shed along one side and drive a second stake at the end (Corner B).
• From Corner A, measure the width perpendicular to the first line and drive a third stake at the end (Corner C).
• From Corner B, measure the width (same as Corner C), drive the fourth stake (Corner D), and connect it back to Corner C.
• Measure diagonals from Corner A to D and Corner B to C. If the diagonals are equal, the rectangle is square.
• Once corners are square, outline the full perimeter using string and batter boards.



STEP 3: Clear & Prepare the Site

• Remove grass, debris, roots, and rocks.
• Ensure the area is flat and drains well.
• For best results, excavate 6 inches and fill with gravel or crushed rock. For a concrete slab, place 4 inches of gravel as a base and consider consulting a professional to ensure proper installation.

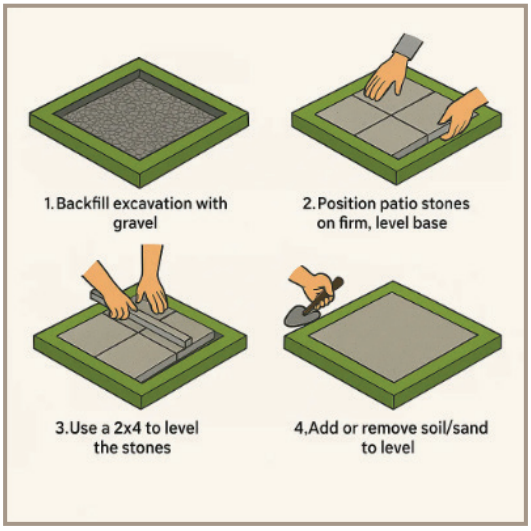
Pro Tip: Use a landscape fabric under gravel to prevent weed growth and soil shifting over time.



STEP 4: Install Your Foundation Type

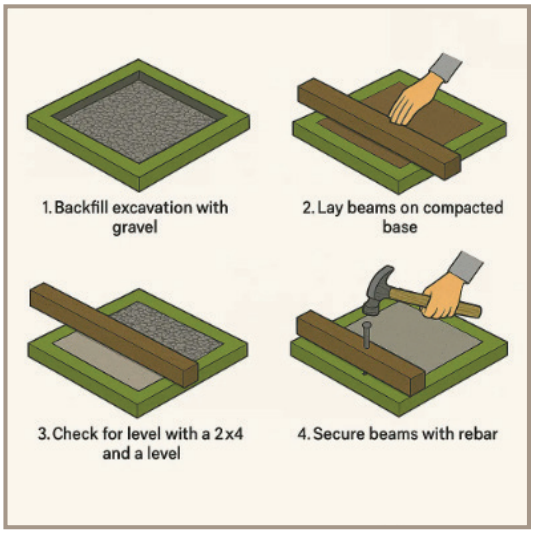
PATIO STONE FOUNDATION

- Level the soil or gravel, then place stones under key floor joist points (see your floor plan).
- Adjust using sand or soil for leveling.
- Space stones evenly to support the shed's perimeter and internal floor joists for balanced weight distribution.
- Use a long 2×4 and a carpenter's level to ensure all stones sit flat and level across the entire footprint.



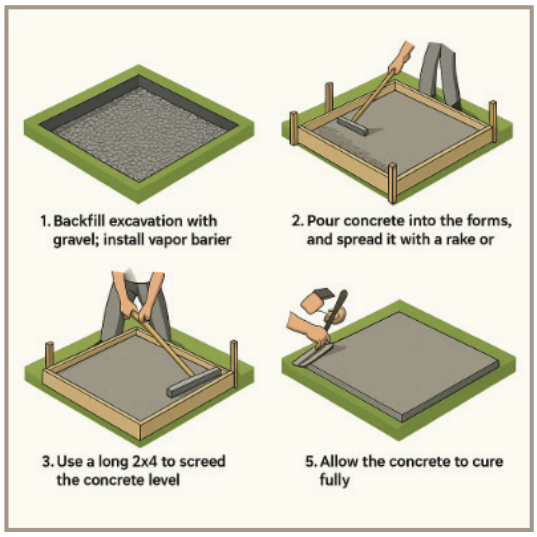
4×4 PRESSURE-TREATED BEAM FOUNDATION

- Lay beams perpendicular to joists on a gravel base.
- Secure beams: anchor them in the gravel to prevent shifting before building on top.
- Leave space between beams to promote drainage and prevent moisture buildup under the shed.
- Install a sill gasket (optional): place a waterproof membrane on top of the beams before building the structure to create a moisture barrier.
- Ensure all beams are level and aligned before attaching floor joists for a stable, even base.



CONCRETE SLAB FOUNDATION

- Excavate 6 inches: 4″ of gravel, 4″ of concrete slab.
- Compact gravel: ensure a firm, level base before pouring concrete.
- Frame your pour with 2x4s, level, and finish with a trowel or bull float.
- Cure properly: allow concrete to set for several days before building on top.





Final Tips Before You Start:

Always check local building codes and permit requirements.
Call your local utility provider before you dig to avoid underground lines.
Don’t skip drainage—it’s your best defense against rot and frost heave.

Need More Specific Foundation Guidance?

While this guide provides general best practices for preparing a foundation, individual product designs may have unique requirements. For a more tailored guide for your specific model, please refer to the provided product assembly manual included with your kit.

