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Backyard Shed Planning

A practical pre-build checklist

01 / RULES BEFORE MATERIALS

- ☐ Ask the local building office about permits, size/height limits, setbacks and inspections.
- ☐ Check HOA rules, easements and property lines; do not assume a small shed is exempt.
- ☐ Call 811 before digging in the US and ask about private utility locating too.

02 / PURPOSE + LOCATION

- ☐ List your largest stored items. Measure door width, floor space and working clearance.
- ☐ Mark the proposed footprint; leave access for maintenance and opening the doors.
- ☐ Check drainage after rain. Avoid low spots, blocking runoff and building over utilities.

03 / FOUNDATION + STRUCTURE

- ☐ Choose a foundation appropriate to soil, slope, frost depth and local requirements.
- ☐ Confirm anchoring, local wind/snow loads and any engineered-design requirements.
- ☐ Check the plan for ventilation, roof runoff, ground clearance and rot protection.

04 / MATERIALS + REAL BUDGET

- ☐ List lumber, sheathing, roofing, door hardware, fasteners and weatherproofing.
- ☐ Add foundation materials, delivery, tool hire, permit fees and waste allowance.
- ☐ Compare plan dimensions with actual lumber sizes before finalizing the cut list.
- ☐ Budget: materials $_____ + other costs $_____ + contingency $_____

05 / READY TO BUILD?

- ☐ Secure approvals and required inspections before starting work.
- ☐ Check the site is level and square; plan lifting help and safe access.
- ☐ If adding electricity, consult a qualified electrician and local permit office.
- ☐ Planned size: _____ Permit/contact: _____ Start date: _____

Optional recommended plans: https://www.seediy.com/go/sheds

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