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Beginner Woodworking

Starter checklist: tools + your first 5 projects

01 / BEFORE THE FIRST CUT

- ☐ Choose a stable, well-lit work surface and clamp the workpiece securely.
- ☐ Wear eye and hearing protection; manage dust with extraction and suitable respiratory protection.
- ☐ Read the tool manual. Unplug tools before blade changes; keep hands clear of cutting paths.

02 / A SMALL, USEFUL TOOL KIT

- ☐ Measure + mark: tape measure, pencil, combination square and level.
- ☐ Cut + assemble: handsaw or suitable power saw, drill/driver, bits and clamps.
- ☐ Finish: sanding block (80, 120, 180/220 grit); choose a finish rated for the project.

03 / FIRST 5 PROJECTS — CHOOSE ONE

- ☐ Wall shelf: one board + rated brackets; locate studs or use load-rated anchors.
- ☐ Cutting board: use suitable hardwood, no treated lumber, and food-contact-rated finish.
- ☐ Birdhouse: use a species-specific design for hole size, drainage and ventilation.
- ☐ Plant stand: start low and wide; test stability before loading it.
- ☐ Storage crate: pre-drill ends, remove splinters and check for protruding fasteners.

04 / PLAN, TEST, FINISH

- ☐ Write a cut list; allow for saw kerf. Measure twice before every cut.
- ☐ Practice drilling and fastening on scrap; dry-fit before glue or screws.
- ☐ Check square, sand sharp edges, and follow the finish label for cure time.
- ☐ Final check: no wobble, exposed screws or loose joints. Date finished: _____

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

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