

Adding a Shed

Even the largest of homes needs an effective outdoor storage space. With today's engineering advancements and focus on functional usage, outdoor sheds have advanced beyond storing tools and garden gadgets.

Why Add a Shed?

Storage is the number one reason most people consider adding a storage shed to their property. As many homeowners with growing families understand, space is always at a premium. And the more land you own, the more storage space you need for all the equipment required to maintain it.

Sheds are easy to build and even easier to install if you use the services of a small building manufacturer. These types of companies have enjoyed recent spikes in popularity because of the options for customization by their customers. From the building materials to the interior design, you can sit down with a small building consultant to construct the perfect unit for your needs.

Multi-Purpose

Maybe you're using your shed building for more than just tool and mower storage. Other options include a home office, hobby workshop or even a kids' playhouse.

Whatever purpose you plan on employing, it is important to ensure usage of the appropriate materials and construction techniques. Remember that if people are going to go in and out of the shed often, you will want to comply with the same safety and living standards you use in your home.

Know the Rules

Many towns and cities have specific size limits on sheds and other outdoor units. You may, in fact, need a permit to being building one, even if you own the land.

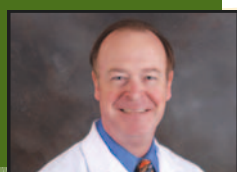
If you live in a subdivision, you may be required to check with the homeowners association, as there may be bylaw requiring prior approval. Once you pass through all the red tape, you will be on your way to building a fully functional unit to enjoy for years to come.



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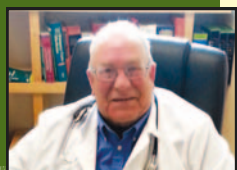
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TRIM YOUR TREES SAFELY

After a cold winter of windy conditions and heavy snowfall, your trees could probably use a little TLC this spring.

But before you gas up the saw or sharpen the pruners, remember that trimming trees can be one of the most dangerous jobs around the yard.

According to a report on OSHA.gov, the three most common types of serious tree trimming accidents are:

Electrocution

This usually involves a person working too closely to electric lines. Always be vigilant of where your power lines are and keep a safe distance away from them.

Falling from Trees

You can be seriously injured or killed if you fall from a tree, no matter the height. It is important to use the utmost caution when in a tree because you're dealing with many dangerous circumstances, including the saw you're trimming with and the potential for falling.

Being Struck by Branches or Limbs

Before trimming your trees, take a visual check of the branches and limbs above you. There may be some that are no longer attached to the tree but hanging within the branches.

If jostled too much, these falling branches and limbs can cause serious head injuries or cause you to fall from the tree.

How to Stay Safe

To prevent tree-trimming accidents, take responsibility for your own safety.

Read and follow directions that come with all climbing, cutting and safety equipment. Doing so will ensure your safety while operating tools such as chainsaws, pruners and climbing gear.

Concentrate on the job at hand, even if the task seems mundane.

You may be tempted to take shortcuts or work quickly if you have a lot of yard work to complete that day.

Take your time to fully protect yourself and others around you from danger.