

Choosing a good location, making sure the site is suitable, and any necessary site preparation, is solely the customer's responsibility. These instructions are basic guidelines. You may need to consult with a professional contractor to determine what preparation your individual site will need to make the ground flat, level and firm enough to build on. Larger buildings require a frost-protected foundation, so check with your Building Code Official before you look at this alternative foundation method.

If your Building Code Enforcer says that your size shed does **NOT** need to be built upon a new concrete slab or level sonotubes designed to our specifications, we recommend creating a stable base out of compacted gravel, or using a "box" filled with gravel. Having a proper foundation will keep your warranty valid and protect your investment over time. **YOU MUST CHECK WITH YOUR LOCAL BUILDING CODE OFFICE BEFORE CHOOSING THIS METHOD.** Most state and county codes require a frost-protected foundation for larger sheds.

**Gravel Pad in Box (timber crib):**

- Create a box one or two feet (1-2ft) larger then the building footprint (6"-1foot from each side) using pressure-treated 4x4s, 6x6s, or landscaping timbers. Boards standing on edge will not retain the material safely.
- Set a level on the wood to determine what adjustments will need to be made to make the pad level.
- On the side that is lowest, start your first course of timber by scraping out a narrow, level trough so approximately half of it is in the ground. Continue leveling the trough around the perimeter.
- Anchor the bottom course of timbers into the ground using rebar through drilled holes, or other suitable method.
- Once the box is level, secured to the ground and galvanized spiked on all 4 sides, remove all turf and loose soil so organic decay doesn't cause settling later. Fill the box with recommended fill shown below.
- If more then 4 inches of recommended fill is needed, the fill must be compacted in 4" layers at a time.
- Compact or tamp the recommended fill once the box is full so that it is firm and level. It should leave no imprint when walked upon or when heavy objects are dropped on it.

**Gravel Pad without Box (ONLY on level ground):**

- Remove turf and soil to approximately 4" minimum depth.
- If more then 4 inches of recommended fill is needed, dig to the depth required, and the fill must be compacted in 4" layers.
- Tamp or compact recommended fill so that the foundation is firm and level.



Using a plate compactor to pack the gravel

**Recommended Fill:**

- 1/2" to 3/4" crushed stone or
- 3/4" Minus Processed Gravel (a mix of washed, crushed gravel and fines that will pass thru a 3/4" sieve)



Pad after filling, leveling and compaction.