

## The Quick Woodshed

### A cheap, low carbon recipe for drying your logs

#### Ingredients (for drying 5m<sup>3</sup> of logs)

- Concrete blocks, bricks or timber sleepers to make a base >4" thick
- 9 pallets 5ft x 4ft
- 100m of 6" x ¾" locally milled larch or 150mm x 22mm treated sarking
- Sufficient 3" x 1.5" and 4" x 2" timbers to support the roofing material
- Roofing felt / Onduline / Coroline etc.
- Saw, hammer, nails

#### Time

With all the materials on site, allow half a day to complete the woodshed (assuming basic carpentry skills).

#### Getting started

Pick a site near your house, preferably on free draining ground to avoid flooding the woodshed. The site should be accessible with a trailer of wood, be well ventilated and not overhung or permanently shaded by trees. Ideally the back of the woodshed should face into the prevailing wind (and rain). Work out how much wood you plan to burn and decide how big the woodshed should be. The size illustrated here is sufficient to supply a modern woodburner/woodstove used through the cold months for space heating in a small house. The woodshed is modular so you can make it as many pallets long as you want; use pallets as section dividers and these will help support the roof.



Lay out the concrete blocks/sleepers and get them level them with slates and gravel. You do not need to sit the whole pallet on a concrete pad but you should make sure the corners and centre of each pallet are supported. There will be at least a ton of wet wood supported on each pallet! The example in the photos is just a mock-up so if you can add more blocks than shown, your structure will be stronger. Do not put the pallet straight on the ground, it will rot within 2 years and wick ground moisture into your logs.



Next lay out the pallets as shown above and below.





Start cladding from the bottom by first cladding the edges of the pallet. Use a strip of wood as a spacer to ensure the timbers overlap each other by about ~2" without actually touching. This encourages airflow in the woodshed while preventing wetting from wind-driven rain. If the cladding has some sapwood it will also last much longer if the boards do not touch.



Finally, use the pallet structure to build up a roof structure using the 3" x 1.5" or 4" x 2" timbers. Ensure there is considerable roof overhang at the front to reduce wetting of the front woodstack and gradual rot getting into the pallet. 2 foot would be ideal though this will need additional diagonal bracing to prevent damage in high winds.

To finish off, it is worth putting a strip of cladding along the front edge of the pallets to prevent water getting into the exposed endgrain.