



PHOTOGRAPHS BY NEIL LAWTON

**What you will need:**

- Plastic paving mesh
- Edging wood
- Weed retarding sheet
- Pea shingle
- Builder's sand
- Paving
- Pallet wood
- Door latch
- Screws
- Edging spade
- Garden spade
- Bolster chisel
- Table/mitre or hand saw
- Drill/driver
- Drills
- Nail gun

# WOOD STORAGE SHED

## Part 2

Neil Lawton finishes the wood storage shed for the back garden

With the main structure complete it was time to leave my comfort zone. I have no real experience of hard landscaping, but was in need of a path and a floor!

How I went about this was completely influenced by donations. I asked around and received the plastic paving mesh, a few pavers, the weed-retarding matting, and the builder's sand, free of charge. If it wasn't for the paving mesh, I would probably have gone for a hardcore-type path, as bricks and rubble are easy to obtain free. It's always worth asking around, or using your local freecycle group. There are many people out there with materials that are surplus to requirements.

If I could have waited, and done the work on a bit-by-bit basis, I could probably have done the whole thing for free, but I was desperate for the space so bought materials to complete the job.

**1** Using the lock-together mesh as a guide, I used an edging spade to cut into the turf, marking the edge of the path.

**2** The turf was skimmed off with a standard spade.

**3** Offcuts of an iroko (*Milicia excelsa*) table top were used to edge the cutting, with some of the mesh used to gauge the depth of cut required.



**4** The weed-retarding mat was full of holes but luckily there was enough to have a double layer.

**5** With the mat trimmed back the mesh could start to be locked together. I was short of three pieces to cover the whole area, so arranged them so the space would be bordered by the two small concrete paths.

**6** Pea shingle was then poured over the whole area, filling the mesh and forming the path.

**7** Eight bags later, and the path is finished.

**8** The turf inside the shed was skimmed off, using a spade once more. A straight-edged piece of wood was then scraped over the surface. This will show where high spots need to be removed or low spots need to be built up, to get a more level surface.

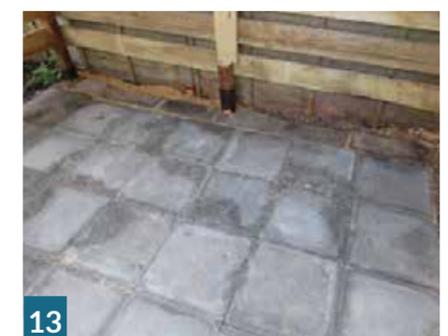
**9** The weed-retarding mat was laid, and builder's sand spread on top of it.

**10** The pavers were laid and levelled by either building up, or removing sand underneath them, until they were stable.

**11** I'm not too worried about aesthetics, and had only bought enough new pavers to fill the space the free ones couldn't.

**12** The old pavers were cut by tapping down the line with a bolster chisel. I have to admit not all went as well to plan as this one!

**13** All the pavers are now in place, and bordered with the remaining pea shingle. One more bag wouldn't go amiss, but it's not essential. ➤



**14** Back in my comfort zone, and on with the shelving. In the absence of any posts, some packing crate will become the uprights, with the shelves themselves made from pallet wood.

**15** The pieces of crate were de-nailed, then roughly cut to length. These were then ripped to size on the table saw.

**16** Two pieces were then screwed together along their length to form an upright. A third piece was used to support the timber.

**17** Repeated four times and the outside uprights are complete.

**18** These were then placed side by side with the two pieces that will make the inside uprights, and the shelf positions marked on. A scrap wood offcut is dimensioned to the right thickness and used so it negates the need for measuring.

**19** Batons were cut from the rest of the packing crate, and were laid out in position.

**20** A nail gun was then used to initially tie the structure together.

**21** Pilot holes were then drilled and the whole thing screwed together.

**22** The inside upright was made in the same way but required a baton on both sides. One side was fixed then used as a reference for the other, by simply butting the baton up to a piece of scrap held against the fixed baton.



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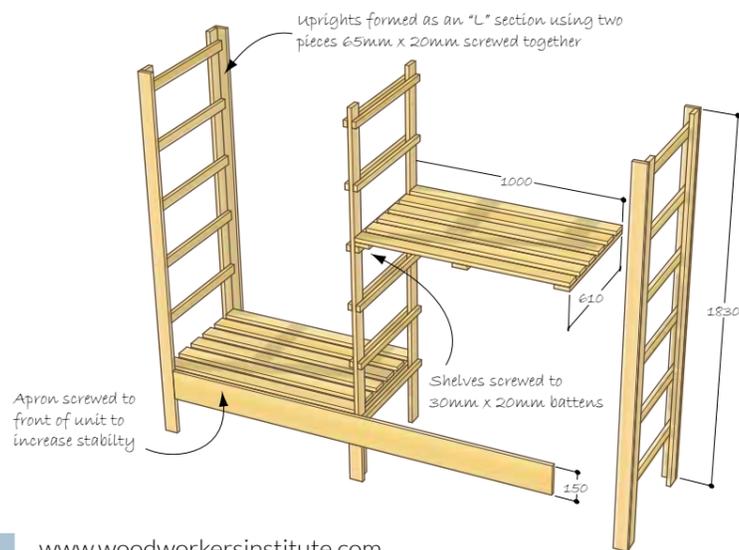
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**23** The upright completed with a bit of warp. Reclaimed wood can't always be perfect. This should pull back true once assembled.

**24** The shelves were made by basically making pallet wood into a simpler pallet!

**25** Assembling the unit, I added a couple of blocks to the bottom of the inside uprights to help spread the load. The shelves are simply screwed to the batons to pull the whole thing together.

**26** A pallet wood apron was screwed to the front to provide more stability, and the shelves were stacked.

**27** The finished unit is now fulfilling its purpose. Another two will be made like this when enough wood becomes available.

**28** A bit of snagging! The fall on the roof is towards the small concrete path. When it rained heavily, water bounced off the path on to the paving. This was solved by simply adding another plank just above the pea-shingle border.

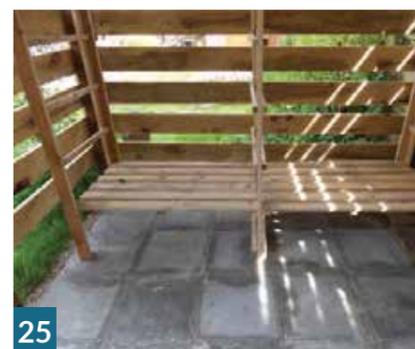
**29** The gates have sat together nicely, but were blown open in high winds, so a small latch was added to the finished shed.



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**Tips for storing wood**

- Make sure you not only stack timber neatly, but also ensure there is ventilation between the boards and blocks of wood.
- Once the wood has a long enough period to dry, you will need to complete the drying ready to work it. Often the best way is to cut components oversize and bring them into the house and store 'in stick' - under the bed is good!

**Neil Lawton**

Neil is a woodworker/turner who specialises in the use of reclaimed and recycled materials in his projects and seasons native timbers for his turning work. He works from his home workshop in York, North Yorkshire and works part time in the Design Technology department of the local school.

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