

SUMMERHOUSE BUYING GUIDE



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A summerhouse adds a captivating centrepiece to your garden and offers a comfortable, sheltered space for you to work, relax, or entertain while enjoying scenic views of your garden. With an extensive range of styles and designs to choose from, it can be challenging to find the summerhouse that meets your needs and requirements. Our comprehensive buying guide will offer insights into common uses, sizes, shapes, and styles of summerhouses to help you find the perfect one for you.

1. HOW WILL YOU USE YOUR SUMMERHOUSE?

Work

Escape the chaos of daily life without the hassle of commuting by transforming a summerhouse into your own private office or workspace. This affordable option often appeals to creative professionals, including artists, writers, and potters, as the spacious interior and abundance of natural light serves as an inspiring workspace. If you require Wi-Fi connectivity or running water in your summerhouse, there are several approaches to installing these utilities. The best method for you will vary based on the layout and positioning of your home and garden.





Relaxation

Ideal for creating your very own peaceful garden retreat, summerhouses offer shelter and comfort to enjoy scenic views of your garden. No matter the weather, summerhouses offer warmth and a peaceful respite from the hustle and bustle of daily life. Their natural timber construction allows for effortless personalisation, ensuring you can tailor your retreat to reflect your unique style. A lick of paint, a few key pieces of furniture and those all-important finishing touches are all it takes to bring your dream relaxation zone to life.

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Entertaining

Perfect for the warmer months, a summerhouse is an ideal space to entertain friends and family. Whether you're looking to host a unique dining experience, need extra shelter for barbecue guests, or require a quiet location for a cosy movie night, Mercia has a summerhouse for all occasions. Plus, if you're an expert party host, our range of garden bars are a showstopping addition to any outdoor space. Available with shutters to allow for storage, these versatile structures will become the hub of every party.



2. SIZE AND PLACEMENT

When choosing the size of your new summerhouse, consider how it may be used in the future. Is there a possibility you might need more space down the line? If budget and garden space allow, buy a slightly bigger summerhouse than the one you think you need to allow for adaptability in the future. Please note that planning guidelines restrict any garden building from occupying at least 50% of your garden without planning permission. Most commercially available summerhouses are designed to fall within mandatory planning restrictions, but it is advised to check with your local planning office before making any purchases.

It's also important to assess your installation site. To utilise the building to its full potential you may want to observe where the sunlight hits your garden throughout the day and position the summerhouse according to your preference. Before construction you should ensure that at least three feet of space will be left around the building to allow easy access during the install and future maintenance. Planning to add utilities such as electricity or running water? Take into account the summerhouse's proximity to any vital infrastructure you need to avoid any unnecessary headaches.

Once you've chosen your summerhouse it's time to make a base! The base of your summerhouse must be solid and level to protect the building from water build-up which would lead to rot and degradation. A good base will save you money in the long run as it extends the life of your garden building and helps to keep it away from elements which cause damage such as insects and ground water.



3. SUMMERHOUSE STYLES

Mercia summerhouses are available in a variety of stylish and eye-catching designs. The overall look and character of a summerhouse is strongly influenced by its roof shape, and door and window design. Features such as Georgian style windows or bi-folding doors may determine the building's usability and affect how it integrates into your garden's style.

TRADITIONAL

CONTEMPORARY

CORNER



Often featuring an apex or hip roof style, our traditional summerhouses offer a timeless and elegant design. Unique details, such as Georgian windows or outdoor veranda, add character to this classic style. Make a statement in your garden with a contemporary summerhouse. With a pent, reverse apex or curved roof, this range offers a diverse selection of unique features which lead to a striking overall finish. Perfect for smaller outdoor spaces, the corner summerhouse is an excellent investment. This range has been designed to fit neatly into a corner of the garden to allow you to maximise the available floor space.

4. MULTI-PURPOSE SUMMERHOUSES

Get more out of your garden space with a multi-purpose summerhouse. Whether you're in need of essential storage space, an open-air entertaining area, or a shelter for your hot tub, Mercia's summerhouse range covers all bases.

Side Shed

If you're looking to extend your living space but don't want to compromise on storage, our summerhouses with side sheds are the perfect all-in-one garden building. The spacious storage shed keeps all your gardening tools and equipment tidied away and secure without the need for a separate shed.







Patio Area

Ideal for creating the ultimate entertaining space, our summerhouses with patio area combine an open living area alongside a sheltered entertainment zone. The sheltered patio area provides the perfect spot for a hot tub or outdoor dining area, this summerhouse range has you covered come rain or shine!

5. GARDEN BARS

Perfect for hosting family and friends, our garden bar range offers practicality combined with a stylish, modern design. Personalise with a lick of paint, decorate with outdoor lighting and stock with drinks to make your garden bar the party hub of the summer!

Without Shutters

This classic garden bar design features side access, and spacious wooden countertop, ideal for pouring and serving drinks. The contemporary pent roof design provides shelter while preventing water build-up, keeping the interior of the bar and your drink stock dry.





With Shutters

Combining style with storage, our garden bar with shutters range is a great option for those looking for a multi-functional bar structure. When in use, the shutters provide extended countertop space which can be folded and locked into position to transform the garden bar into a handy storage building.



6. MAINTENANCE

Regardless of the type of treatment your building has received, it is important to note that regular maintenance is necessary to ensure your summerhouse's longevity and functionality. Maintain the building by regularly clearing debris and checking for damp and mould. All buildings are dip treated before leaving the factory to protect the building while in storage and transit.

DIP TREATMENT

Our buildings are dip treated during manufacture as standard. This process sees a water-based colourant applied to the timber for protection whilst in storage and transit. However, this is not a preservative therefore the building requires a preservative and waterproofing topcoat application once installed and annually thereafter. This then validates your 10 year anti-rot guarantee.



Timber is cut ready for treatment.



Timber is dipped into a cylinder containing preservative.



Preservative is absorbed into the surface of the timber.



Timber is removed from cyclinder containing preservative



Timber is lef to air dry

PRESSURE TREATMENT

This is a high pressure chemical process designed to preserve exposed timber by providing optimal protection against insect attack, fungal attack and decay. The pressure treatment process drives preservative chemicals deep into the timber fibres. However, pressure treated buildings also require a preservative and waterproofing topcoat application once installed and annually thereafter. This then validates your 15 year anti-rot guarantee.



Timber is loaded into a chamber & a vacuum empties timber cells of air.



Timber is floode under vacuum with preservative



Preservative is forced deep into timber using hydraulic pressure.



Another vacuum extracts excess preservative.



Timber is left to dry under a low pressure.