

HOW TO PREPARE YOUR SHED FOR WINTER



Preparing your garden shed for the winter is a must. During the winter our gardens receive less attention and our sheds are often full with the gardening items that we use in the summer. Mercia has created this guide to help you protect your garden shed for winter and help extending its life.

Caring for your timber

Humidity, cold temperatures, wet weather and strong winds play a major part in causing damage to gardens and garden buildings. Such weather conditions also cause timber to swell, consequently putting pressure on the joints and leading to damage. To prevent swelling and reduce pressure we advise our customers to loosen the timber joints on the garden building at the start of autumn. Please remember to follow the instructions listed below:

- You will need to tighten the joints once the weather starts to warm up. If not done, the shed will lose strength.
- Wooden sheds must be treated annually with a wood treatment; treating your shed will help prevent damage such as rot. Oil based wood treatment paint will help bring colour to your garden as well as help protect against rot and water damage.

**Shed & Fence Treat
Brush or Spray**
is a water based decorative
timber treatment that brings
to life the colour of new or
previously treated timber.
It is ideal for use on sheds,
fences, timber posts and gates.
An economical treatment
that is harmless to animals
and plants.

Size:
5 litre, 25 litre

Colours available:
■ DARK BROWN
■ LIGHT BROWN
■ RED CEDAR
■ GREEN



Organising your shed

We all use our garden sheds in different ways. Some sheds are used for storing gardening equipment others are used to store household items. When winter is approaching it is essential that you re-examine everything that you have stored in your shed and be prepared to store certain items elsewhere. The following should be considered:

- Electrical appliances should not sit on the shed floor. If your shed floods or leaks during heavy rain it could lead to significant damage to your equipment and shed. Always try to raise any item that can be damaged by water.
- We suggest that items are not stacked against the shed walls, as it can cause swelling and weaken the building. Installing shelving in your shed is a great way to maximise on space, as well as create more raised storage.
- Do not hang items from the roof of your shed; this can severely weaken your shed and cause damage.

Guttering on your shed

Mercia's sheds do not come with pre-installed guttering, but you can install external guttering. Guttering kits can be purchased from all major DIY stores.

- Most guttering kits are easy to install, uses a clip-on system to secure it to the outside of your shed. Throughout the winter months you will need to make sure that it is free from debris; this will ensure that it is in working order at all times. If a build-up of debris is not cleared it will block the system and cause leaks; consequently causing severe damage to your shed.
- Water can leak in through the bottom of your shed or near windows. We advice our customers to add clear sealant to the edges of windows.
- Check the base of your shed; water should be able to drain correctly from your shed's foundation. If water is collecting around the base might be that your shed's foundations are not level. This will need correcting as soon as possible.

Snow damage

The weight of snow can cause damage to your shed and can lead to leaks and cracks. We advice that you clear all snow collected on the shed's roof as quickly as possible to avoid any irreparable damage. You can use either a broom or rake to clear snow of the roof, be careful not to rip the felt.

- As an alternative, you may want to upgrade the roofing felt on your shed. Go for a high quality, thick roofing felt; this will offer more protection.
- Or you can add extra support to your garden shed roof with wooden batons. The batons will help support the roof and protect against heavy loads.