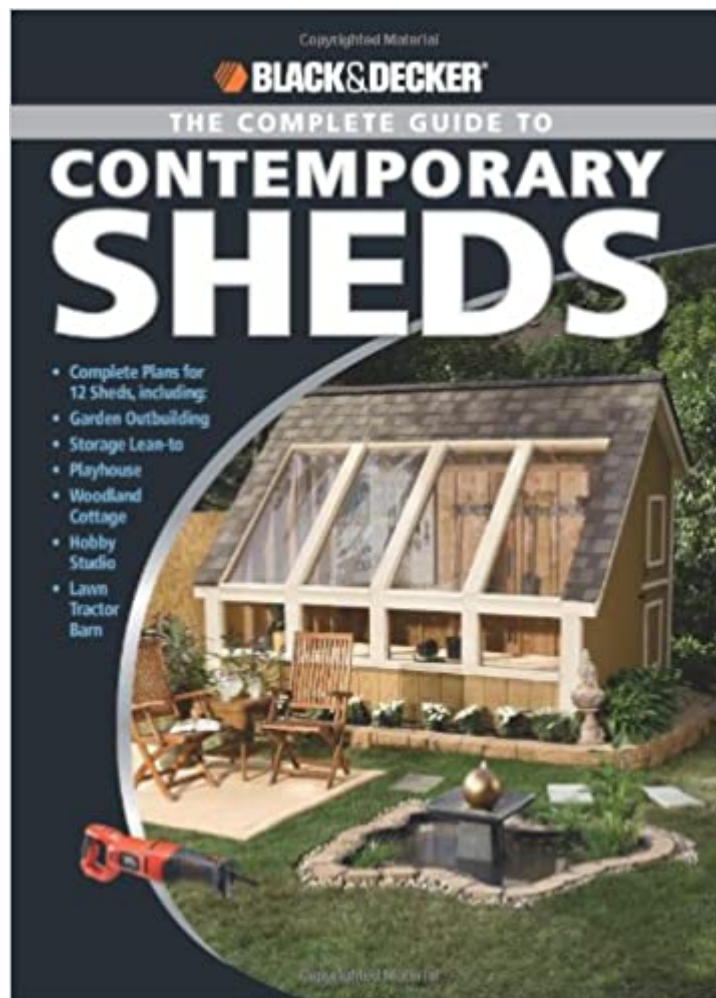


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# Black & Decker The Complete Guide To Contemporary Sheds: Complete Plans For 12 Sheds, Including Garden Outbuilding, Storage Lean-to, Playhouse, ... Tractor Barn (Black & Decker Complete Guide)





## Synopsis

A modern guide to classic outdoor structures. Sheds and other landscape shelters have never been out of style, but they are now seeing a remarkable surge in popularity, and are being used in creative new ways. The common garden shed is now just as likely to serve as a workshop for an artist to pursue his or her hobby; or may be used as a writer's retreat; or may even be equipped with a satellite dish, high definition television, recliners, and used as a meeting spot for Sunday afternoon football parties. In many parts of the country, spacious sheds are being fully appointed with furnishings and used as detached rooms for everyday living or as backyard offices. This book offers readers fuel for their aspirations but also provides practical information for planning and building sheds of all types. Although the basics of stick-building are covered, the book focuses more on the most common consumer option: ordering and buying a kit shed, working from blueprint plans, and customizing the shed to individual needs. Features a planning and design section to help readers create unique shed projects. General technique chapter provides an in-depth overview of each step in shed construction. Includes easy-to-follow plans and directions for 12 sheds covering all design options. Bonus appendix includes a dozen advanced shed plans that can be special-ordered. More than three times as many complete plans than any other sheds book.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Philip Schmidt is an avid environmentalist and a home improvement expert who has written many successful DIY books, including Build Your Kids a Treehouse, The Complete Guide to Patios and The Complete Guide to Contemporary Sheds.

The book is all about sheds. And how to build them from step one to the end. B&D Sheds starts with some basics about construction. Such as lumber, what kind and what to look for. Nailing, what is toe-nailing, end-nailing, face-nailing. General good practices such as 16" on center studs, foundations types and setup, and roofing. B&D Sheds includes plans for several shed designs that includes, Blue-prints, cut-list, and supporting photos to get you through your project. Pros: lots of info about construction, tons of color photos to support the written information, fabulous ideas presented through out the book, heavy paper that can withstand a construction zone. Cons: The blue-prints need to be double checked. On the shed I built, the B&D blue-prints had many inconsistencies, which could have led to some serious head scratching during the build. Luckily, the errors were found before construction began. So, please vet the plans carefully, check all dimensions, before you cut the first board. Summary: Get this book, back up your info with some web-research, and build your own shed. You'll save a ton of money VS buying a prefabricated shed from a big-box home center.

This book does have some good, albeit limited, information about building sheds, yet the information has too few details to be very useful to a shed builder. For example, it describes installing a pre-hung window and says to use flashing, but that aspect is not discussed. It seems to me that a shed builder would need some details about installing flashing for windows, skylights, vents, and doors, but even the photograph of the window did not reveal anything useful about flashing. The illustrations and photographs are of a very good quality. I think too few plans are offered, and while it does offer additional mail order plans, that seems to miss the point since I bought the book for its shed plans (admittedly, on the cover it says, "Complete Plans for 12 Shed Projects."). Additionally, the book is a little out of date, as it suggests using wood that has been treated by CCA (chromated copper arsenate) which is banned due to the hexavalent chromium (a carcinogen) and highly toxic arsenic it contains. Overall, I give the book the grade of "C" as an overview of garden sheds, but I think much more in-depth information is needed for the book to be useful to anyone planning to build a shed. Note, I am comfortable with tools and building things, so I will take the ideas from this book and create a different shed than what is in the book. With that, I'd suggest folks look at this book in person at the local home/hardware center to see if it has enough information for them before they order it online.

Good book for the beginner ... to get a idea as to what it takes, not so much as to how to begin or pitfalls one might encounter. Legal word: In Los Angeles if the shed is not bolted directly to the ground, platform, foundation - not permit is needed. Consult your local office, you would be amazed how much help them are (genuine).

A great book for your needs to build your own shed. B&D did a great editorial job in writing this book, explaining very well and concise on the materials needs, the preparation and even the cutting diagrams each shed concept. If you are into being a do-it-yourself, building your own shed, then this book is the way to go.

What can I say, a book for shed lovers filled with inspiration

This book is well written and illustrated and provides a good selection of shed projects for the somewhat-skilled home handyperson. It is better than other books I've looked at. I'd suggest a grading of the sheds by skill level required, possible need for a helper (the high rafters seem most likely), and a glossary of terms in the back. I found one questionable instruction but it was easy spot and to modify. Otherwise, I'd recommend it to anybody who has had some experience in the home workshop and wants to build sheds.

As far as purchasing the book, everything about the purchase was excellent. About the book, it includes 12 shed plans as stated. Not one of the plans contain an actual material list only cutting lists. The plans are not for someone without a fair amount of carpentry skills and the ability to read blueprints.

I was hoping for a pattern for a basic 6 X 6 shed - one door, one window that I could customize. Lots of interesting sheds - but not what I needed. this was something I should have looked for in the library first!

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