

Maintenance for Wooden Garden Sheds, Summerhouses and Log Cabins

As with most products the lifespan of garden buildings can be dramatically prolonged by taking a bit of time throughout the year to look after the building and tend to any repairs before they become more serious.

To help you get the best out of your buildings we have prepared a list of some of the key requirements in maintaining your garden buildings and a list of equipment you will need.

Tools Required:

Paint Brushes – to apply preservative, make sure to cover those awkward corners

Paint Kettle – save spilling and wastage

Sandpaper – remove any flaking or rough splinters

Dust Sheets – cover ground area to prevent any splashing, especially if on paving

PPE – Goggles to prevent splashing preservative in your eyes, Gloves to protect hands

Check your base:

With most wooden sheds and structures the key to maintaining the building is ensuring that it remains on a firm and level base and protected against moisture penetration, monitor this regularly. Any movement of the base under the building can lead to twisting of the timber or dropping of the doors.

Seal your windows:

It is essential that all windows are sealed inside and out as soon as is possible after assembly. This could be achieved via the application of silicone, timber beading or any other suitable 'water tight' solution at your own preference.

Treat your building annually:

We recommend you re-treat your building within 6 months (or straight away if supplied un-treated) using Barretine Red Cedar (spirit based) preservative, and from then on annually to keep it looking fresh and protect it against the elements.

Some buildings are supplied with hardwood doors, which should be treated as one would an exterior household door rather than a shed door. We would advise for them to be treated with at least two coats of a suitable timber protection such as Sadolin preservative, as soon as possible after installation. Please bear in mind that timber is a natural product and a certain amount of expansion, contraction and surface splits are normal.

Any overhanging tree or hedge growth poses a threat to your garden building and should be cut back at regular intervals. If a tree branch makes contact with your building it may pierce the roofing felt and encourage water ingress.

Check and replace any damaged felt:

If you do find any damage sustained to your roofing felt over time it is essential that you act upon this without delay. Should you discover a rip or tear in the felt it is recommended that this area be stripped from the roof and a new covering of high grade, heavy duty, mineral felt (which can be purchased from all our branches) be affixed immediately.

Ventilation:

It is important to ensure adequate ventilation to your garden building as this will help to prevent condensation which could lead to deterioration of the timber, this is highly necessary when using as a workshop and may be advisable to fit an air vent.

Lubrication:

All hinges and locks should be lubricated with suitable oil to ensure continued ease of use.

Conclusion:

Our tips and advice offered above should help you keep that Garden Building in tip top condition and therefore it should last for many years to come.