



# sheds & greenhouses

Comprised of many elements, garden sheds define their own category. Store-bought kits make assembly a cinch, but these sheds are usually not constructed of green materials. The small nature of sheds, greenhouses, cold frames and other outbuildings makes them perfect candidates for salvaged materials. In fact, you can reuse an entire shed if you find one available. Look for shed materials at King County's Online Materials Exchange at [www.metrokc.gov/dnrp/swd/exchange/](http://www.metrokc.gov/dnrp/swd/exchange/) as well as local classified ads and used building materials stores. Many elements of a shed can be found reused, from sheathing and windows to roofing and dimensional lumber. The only limitation is your imagination—and perhaps your vehicle!

If you're purchasing new wood and/or plywood for your project, consider *Forest Stewardship Council* (FSC) certified wood. This independent organization's stamp of approval signifies wood harvested and processed in an environmentally and socially responsible manner. To ensure you're getting the real thing, look for the logo on the products you're buying. By buying FSC wood products, you support and protect the vitality of our forests.

Be sure to research whether your shed will require a permit, and that it complies with Seattle's codes for setbacks from neighboring properties. In general, structures with roof area smaller than 120 square feet do not require a permit. If you have questions about a structure you're considering for your Seattle backyard, call the Department of Planning and Development's Building Code Technical Support line (Monday through Friday, 1:00 to 4:15 pm) at (206) 684-4630.

Conventional foundations and concrete slabs require large amounts of cement, a material that's extremely energy-intensive to produce. See the *Decks* on page 10 for more about *pin foundations*, an alternative to slabs and conventional foundations.

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