

# Storage buildings offer more than extra space; add value

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Outdoor storage has become an essential commodity for homeowners these days. With all the tools, toys, supplies and equipment collected through the years, it is no surprise homeowners crave a simpler, more organized lifestyle.

Every year, more homeowners choose to add a portable building to their backyard. A portable building provides increased storage room and can also enhance the value of a home, well beyond the price paid for the structure.

According to Brandon Weems, sales consultant for Tuff Shed in Lubbock, there are many good reasons to consider adding a pre-fab building to your property.

"The most common reason people buy storage sheds is because they have so much stuff, they can't park their cars in their garage," he says.

Typically, most people need buildings for conventional uses like these:

- A workshop or place to

house a hobby. Woodworkers, artists, and collectors of all types are good candidates for pre-fab buildings. Usually, they need a place to work and extra room for the equipment used in their pastime.

- A place to store something large and valuable. Many people like the idea of storing their RVs, boats, classic cars, trucks or even airplanes on their own property. People who store such things outside, or pay to store them elsewhere, can reap great benefits by keeping them safe, out of the weather, and on their own property. Over time, the savings on storage and repair can help pay for the cost of a building. In fact, Brandon says, renting a storage building for two years costs the same amount as it would to buy a portable building.

- New quarters for a home-based business. When owners of a home-based business outgrow their garage or basement, they often choose to put up a building. People involved in repair, light manufacturing or distribution businesses find

that pre-fab buildings provide economical work and storage space just a few steps from home.

But before you run out and buy any old storage building, Brandon says you need to do a little homework. The secret is to pick the correct building and the correct size and then put it in the right spot on your property.

Consumers should consider what they are buying the building for before they choose a size and style. Knowing this will help select the roof style, door requirements and features needed. Other important considerations for buy a portable building are construction details, quality of materials, warranties, payment requirements and total price.

"Look around at the different companies selling storage buildings and look for key features like price and warranty," Brandon explains.

A wide array of portable buildings are available, from do-it-yourselfers to pre-made storage sheds; small garage-size buildings to very large structures - the selection is virtually endless. To make the

buying process a little easier, here are some factors to consider when looking for the perfect building for your backyard:

**Size** - Consider what the building will be used for to decide between a garage, shed or barn. If you need extra space for a car, truck or motorcycle, an extra garage is the storage building for you. This type of building provides an extra area to house your valuables and keep them protected and secured. Garages are available in a variety of different sizes and styles.

A barn makes an excellent area for an extra workspace or a place to house a hobby. The tall roof allows enough room for a loft to be added for double the storage. A barn can be large enough to be a home office or small enough to hold all your lawn equipment.

Sheds are smaller buildings, mainly used to house extra boxes, Christmas decorations, or lawn supplies - it's like a walk-in closet in your backyard. Sheds are a perfect solution for those who need a little extra storage, but don't want anything that will overpower the yard.

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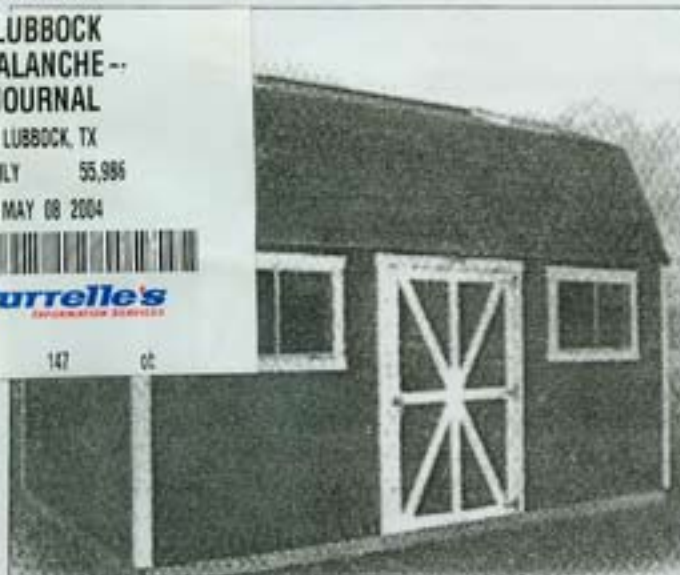
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A BARN is a good choice for a workshop or home office.



A LOFT in a barn can add extra storage space for boxes or holiday decorations.



**CONSIDER FEATURES** such as access, doors, windows and height when selecting the right storage building for your needs.

**Construction** – It is important to consider how the building was made and what type of material the building is made of. Traditional aluminum storage sheds are still available, but newer designs incorporate vinyl siding and natural wood. Durabilt uses only SmartPanel® siding. This type of siding is the only siding treated with the borate-based SmartGuard® process to resist termites and fungal decay. SmartPanel siding is more dimensionally stable and will not split, warp, delaminate or buckle like plywood siding. “The main advantage of this type of siding is that you can hardly do anything to hurt it,” says John Fritz, owner of Durabilt. “You can beat it with a hammer and it won’t make a mark.”

SmartPanel is also a resin saturated, paint-based overlay, and the proprietary edge and groove coating helps resist moisture, unlike plywood siding which needs to be field primed. SmartPanel also comes with a warranty period of 30 years and a seven-year, 100 percent repair/replacement warranty.

Tuff Shed uses Duratemp™ brand siding, which is a very durable plywood backed and hardboard faced siding that carries its own 25-year war-

ranty against splitting, checking or cracking when properly painted.

**Features** – There are many accessories available to add quality and style to your structure. Paint, doors, windows, skylights, shelves, ramps, vents and lofts – these are all features available to enhance the look and function of your building. Tuff Shed provides a seven-year warranty on all their paint jobs. They offer a selection of 24 Dulux™ paint colors for the walls and trim of your building so you can easily match your building with the color of your house.

If you want double the storage in one building, you may want to choose a barn with a loft.

“If you have a small space and you need a lot of storage, a barn with a loft is the solution,” John says.

**Cost** – Consumers should check with different companies to find the best price. But, the best price doesn’t always mean it’s the best quality, so find a price you’re comfortable with and then survey all its qualities. Most building supply companies encourage you to do your homework and evaluate all aspects of your area and the type of building you need.