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Free Woodworking Plans

Whenever possible I locate free plans on the internet, and occasionally I draw some up that hopefully will be beneficial to you. On the following four pages you will find a list of both types of free plans.

We all would like to see more free plans available to us at a click of the mouse. There are many unique [plans available on the internet](#).

There are links to thousands of plans on this Woodworking site. More plans will be added on a regular basis. If you can't locate a plan at this time, please take advantage of this Woodworking.About.com's [Forum](#). Someone may see your posted question, and know exactly where you can find what your looking for, or perhaps you can help out another fellow woodworker, by answering a question they may have.

Free Plans From the Internet A-C

[Aldo Leopold Bench](#)

Wild Ones has a free bench plan that is made from 2" x 6", 2" x 8", and 2" x 10" material.

[Aquarium Table](#) new

An article that describes how to make a table that can support a 3' long fish tank. The table also includes a shelf underneath. Material list measurements are in millimeters.

[Artist's Easel](#)

Benjamin Grosser shows how to build a heavy duty easel with free drawings and instructions.

[Baby Changing Table](#)

Amateur Woodworker has instructions, and a

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material list for building a Baby Changing Table,
that can also be used as a chest of drawers.

Ball and Bat Rack

HouseNet has a full-sized building diagram and
instructions for a Ball and Bat Rack that is
designed for two bats and three balls.

Barrister Bookcases

Popular Woodworking magazine offers a free
download construction drawing in PDF format
of Barrister Bookcases.

Baseball Cap Rack

Minwax® has this page that has free assembly
diagrams, procedure information, tips, plus a
tools, and materials list in order to make a
Baseball Cap Rack.

Bathroom Vanity

Popular Mechanics has a free project plan,
materials list, plus instructions for a bathroom
vanity that starts on this page.

Bedroom Organizer

Minwax® has this page that has free assembly
diagrams, procedure information, tips, plus a
tools, and materials list in order to make a
Bedroom Organizer.

Bedside Table

Minwax® has this page that has free assembly
diagrams, procedure information, tips, plus a
tools, and materials list in order to make a
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Bench

California Redwood Association has free plans
and step-by-step instructions for building a
Mendocino Bench.

Birdhouse 1 new

L & R Designs offers a free PDF download plan
to build a traditional 9 1/2" high x 8 1/2" wide x
10" deep birdhouse. All built from 1" x 6"
material.

Birdhouse 2

Johnathon Press Home and Workshop Online has
a free plan and instructions for a family project
for a birdhouse that kids could make.

The Bird Ornament Patterns

WoodCraft Projects has free full scale patterns of
various bird ornaments for a weekend wood/craft
hobbyist. Painting instructions are included.

Blanket Chest 1

August Home Publishing Co. has free plans and
descriptions to build a Country Classic Blanket



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Chest.

Blanket Chest 2

Popular Mechanics has a free project plan, materials list, plus instructions for a blanket chest that starts on this page.

Bluebird House Plans

Here's an article that describes how to build a bluebird house, complete with step by step instructions.

Booklet With Weekend Projects

Minwax® will send you a free Easy Weekend Projects booklet just by simply filling out a request form.

Book/Magazine Stand

Popular Woodworking Magazine offers free instructions, a material list, and a downloadable construction drawing for building a tall book/magazine stand.

Bread Box

Amateur Woodworker offers a free plan and instructions for building a Bread Box. Tools required are a drill, sander, jigsaw, and router.

Build An Office Desk

Popular Mechanics has a free project plan, materials list, plus instructions for a office desk that starts on this page.

Building An Inexpensive Wine Rack



Your About Wine Guide Lisa Shea has very nice colored photos and free instructions for building a wine rack with plywood and PVC pipe.

Bungalow Mailbox

Popular Woodworking magazine offers a free download construction drawing in PDF format of a Bungalow Mailbox.

Byrdcliffe Cabinet

Popular Woodworking magazine offers a free download construction drawing in PDF format of a Byrdcliffe Cabinet.

A Cabinetmaker's Toolchest

Ralph Brendler offers his free basic plans and a description of a toolchest.

CD Carousel new

Freeplans.com™ offers a free detailed plan and instructions for building a CD Carousel that looks like it could hold somewhere around 96 CDs.

CD Holder

Minwax® has this page that has free assembly diagrams, procedure information, tips, plus a tools, and materials list in order to make a CD Holder.

Chattahoochee Chair

Wolmanized® offers this page with material list, and detailed plan.

Classic Winter Sled

Drawings, instructions, material and hardware lists are included on this page to build a Classic Winter Sled that is just under four feet long, and it can be built with common tools.

Coffee Table

Popular Mechanics offers free instructions and photos for building a knock down Coffee Table that looks similar to a trestle table.

Computer Desk

Instructions and a cutting diagram for making a Computer Desk or Study Carrel from a single sheet of plywood.

Computer Desk, and More

Black & Decker has free project instructions, and detailed plans on how-to build an Adirondack Chair, Computer Desk, Indoor Firewood Rack, and an Outdoor Wood Organizer.

Corner Cabinet

Jeff Greef Woodworking supplies detailed instructions and photos for building a small wall mounted Corner Cabinet.

Corner Cupboard

Popular Mechanics offers detailed two part plans, with details on how-to do the case construction, doors, and trim, plus a materials list.

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Free Plans From The Internet D-P

Continue on to a list of more free plans from the internet.

Free Plans From The Internet Q-Z

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Amateur Woodworker

Bread Box



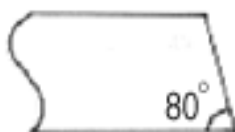
Bread boxes are very easy to make and it is almost a crime to consider buying one -- unless for some reason wood will not go in your kitchen. This particular bread box is based on one of the more common designs and is therefore easier to build than one with a roll-top lid. Bread box fanatics (presuming such a person exists) are split into two camps: those that want air holes and those that don't. We're not about to pin our colors to either side of the argument and, instead, offer a choice depending upon your own preference.

Construction

Tools required: Drill, sander, jigsaw, router

Wood required (pine):

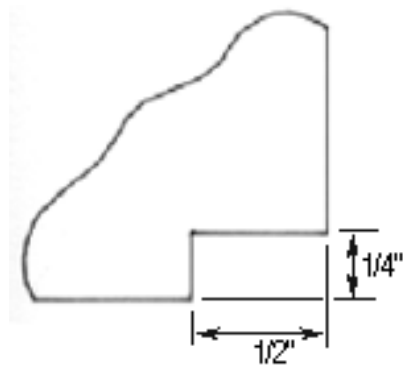
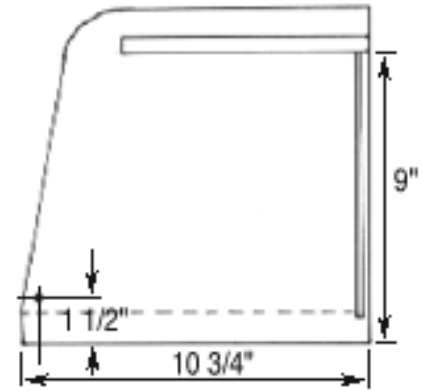
Description	Qty	Thickness	Width	Length
Base	1	3/4"	10 3/4"	18 5/8"
Sides	2	3/4"	10 1/2"	10 3/4"
Top(see note)	1	1/2"	8 9/16"	19 1/8"
Door	1	1/2"	8 1/8"	18 5/8"
Back (plywood)	1	1/8"	9 1/2"	19 1/8"
Hinge (dowel)	2	1/8"	1/8"	1 1/2"
Handle	1	3/4"	1"	5 1/2"



Note: When cutting the top to shape, the front length should be cut at a 80 degree angle. This is to ensure that the bread box door rests against the top evenly, rather than on a very thin edge (see diagram on left).

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Cut the two side pieces to the correct shape (see diagram on right), rounding off the top with a smooth curve. Decide which face of each side piece is the inside face and mark it accordingly. Then cut the groove in each of these inside faces. The groove should be $\frac{1}{2}$ " wide, $\frac{1}{4}$ " deep and $8\frac{1}{16}$ " long (measured from the back edge): it should be cut parallel to the bottom of the side piece at a height of 9" to $9\frac{1}{2}$ " from the bottom. [The top of the bread box slots into this groove, thus strengthening the construction.] Finally, drill a $\frac{1}{8}$ " hole in either side piece, as shown in the diagram. This should be $1\frac{1}{2}$ " from the bottom of the side piece, and in $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the front. The purpose of this hole is that the hinge dowel will pass through this, into each side of the door.



As mentioned above, the top piece slots into the side-wall groove. However, for the sake of neatness, you will notice that the side groove is not quite as long as the top piece is wide. Because of this, it is necessary to cut a small niche out of each end of the top piece (see diagram on left).

It is now necessary to make a groove in the top of the base piece, the inside of both sides and the underside of the top piece. This groove should be $\frac{1}{8}$ " wide, and $\frac{1}{4}$ " deep and should be $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the back of each piece. The back panel slots into this groove, ensuring a nice tight fit. When creating the groove for the two side pieces, do not extent the slot all the way to the top of the sides. Instead, only run the vertical $\frac{1}{8}$ " slot up to where it intersects the $\frac{1}{2}$ " horizontal groove.

The final step prior to putting everything together is to prepare the bread box' door. Dry fit the sides, base and top and make sure that the door is the correct length to fit snugly between the sides. Then, round off the bottom length of the door, so that the side profile looks like a semi circle (see diagram).



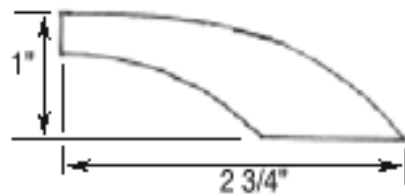
Now, glue and nail (use small pin nails so that they won't show) the sides to the base. Then, glue in the back plywood and add the top, so completing the box shape. Clamp until the glue is dry. Once everything is dry, remove the clamps and place the door into place. Then, drill through the $\frac{1}{8}$ " holes in each side, into the side of the door. Put a little bit of glue onto each dowel, at least $\frac{1}{2}$ " from the end, and then slide the dowel hinges through the side pieces into the door. The idea is to glue the dowel into the side pieces, while leaving the door to rotate smoothly

around the dowel hinge (it is a good idea to wax the very end of the dowel before gluing it).

Sand everything down, ensuring that the top of the door is flush with the top piece. Screw and glue the handle onto the front and then oil the bread box. To finish the bread box, we recommend mineral oil as it is a non-toxic oil.

Air Holes

If you have decided to add air holes to the bread box, drill 1/8" holes into the upper part of the back plywood.



Handle

If you cannot find a satisfactory handle for the bread box, you may decide that you want to make one from scratch. If so, this is the plan for the handle used on the above box. Note that the thickness of the handle is 3/4". Also note that the plan provided is only half a plan. Simply sketch this out onto a block of wood, and then turn the plan over to sketch out the other side. This approach helps to ensure that the handle is uniform. Once you have cut out the shape, carefully sand it until you have a nice rounded shape.

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Your guide takes you through the eight steps on how to prepare lumber for your next woodworking project. Whether you buy lumber rough or surfaced from the mill, the lumber yard, a home center, or a specialty wood store you have to prepare the lumber for use.

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Wood expands and shrinks. Your guide discusses why wood moves, provides a formula for calculating the movement, and points out where wood movement can be an important consideration in your project design.

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[A Hand Tools List for the Beginner](#)

Every woodworker needs hand tools. Here's a list of tools for the

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woodworker just starting out. This list is by no means exhaustive - its only meant to be a guide. A future article will include an extended list for the more experienced woodworker.

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The Types of Files and Rasps Used in Woodworking

Your guide discusses the basic types of files and rasps used in woodworking. The difference between files and rasps is explained. Then the purpose of each type of file and rasp is discussed.

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Chain Saw Cleanup After the Hurricane: Tree Removal

In the wake of Hurricane Isabel, there may be trees down on the ground in your yard. If not, there are probably at least tree *limbs* strewn all over your lawn.... [Read more...](#)

[Friday September 19, 2003](#) <#>

Ornamental Grasses Categorized by Usage

So you've decided you like the look of ornamental grasses in landscape design? But you're uncertain about the growing requirements of the various types of ornamental grasses? [Read more...](#)

[Friday September 19, 2003](#) <#>

An Inlay Design for Concrete Patio Floors

Using concrete as a surface for patios is practical -- too practical, for some. To spice up bare concrete with home accents, incorporate inlay designs. This article details many concrete patio designs, including the planning required to implement such designs successfully for your new patio or landing.

[Thursday September 18, 2003](#) <#>

Wildflower Identification: Name That Wildflower!

Landscaping enthusiasts and nature-lovers often

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and around their landscapes. Here's your chance to test your knowledge! See if you know the wildflower pictured on your right. To verify that you've arrived at the correct answer, please read my follow-up in the [Landscaping Discussion Forum](#), where I've revealed the wildflower's name. This entry is the 4th in a series of wildflower identifications.

Hint: The photo to your right has been used elsewhere on this Web site, in a story on poison ivy.
[Thursday September 18, 2003](#) #

Mulch to Consider

Mulch is mulch, isn't it? It's just something to spread around beneath plants, to suppress weeds, right? Wrong. There's much to consider when choosing between mulches for your landscaping and gardening needs. Learn about some of those considerations here.

[Wednesday September 17, 2003](#) #

Garden Railroading: Mobile Landscape Design

"Garden railroading is the art of combining a model railroad and a beautiful garden to create a railway-like atmosphere," says the Garden Railways Magazine Web site. Read the rest of their [Brief Overview of Garden Railways](#) to find out what it is that makes this fast-growing landscaping technique

Did You Know?

Edgar Allan Poe, master of the macabre, was instrumental in the development both of the detective story and science fiction. But this eclectic genius also penned some compelling landscape design ideas

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so popular.

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[Top 10 Shrubs and Vines for Fall Foliage](#)

Trees don't hold a monopoly over providing attractive fall foliage. Shrubs and vines can be used to complement the fall foliage produced by the trees in your landscaping. Consider the choices presented here.

[Tuesday September 16, 2003 #](#)

Landscape Design Ideas: Building Berms

Landscaping berms are mounds of dirt that are often erected to add visual interest to the landscape. This [article on building berms](#) from the Home and Garden Television Web site offers ideas on incorporating berms into a Japanese-garden landscape design.

[Tuesday September 16, 2003 #](#)

[Sumac Trees for Fall Foliage](#)

Sumac trees are sometimes despised as being little better than weeds. But fall foliage lovers know better! Sumac trees put on one of the landscape's showiest fall foliage displays. And as if its foliage weren't colorful enough in fall, it also bears an attractive red seed tuft throughout the autumn season. Eighth in a series of articles on fall foliage trees, all of which can be accessed from the [fall foliage index](#). In addition to their fall display, the sumacs have an interesting story to tell....

[Monday September 15, 2003 #](#)

Online Resources for Landscape Design Ideas

Are you looking for ideas to design that "master plan" for your landscape? This [landscape design link](#) provides online resources that will allow you to

explore everything from conducting soil tests to
planting according to plant hardiness zones.

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After the Disaster

Find a quick summary of what you need to do if a hurricane, tornado, storm, earthquake, or other disaster leaves your home in need of repairs.

[Wednesday September 17, 2003](#) #

Hurricane-Proof Your Home

With Hurricane Isabel bearing down on the East Coast and mid-Atlantic states of the U.S. it may be late to do major work, but About's Architecture Guide has some good ideas for [building or remodeling your home to withstand storm-force winds](#).

[Tuesday September 16, 2003](#) #

Home Repairs and West Nile Virus

For those in areas affected by the West Nile Virus, there are some home projects to take care of to help mosquito-proof your home -- in addition to wearing appropriate clothing, using repellent, avoiding times and places where mosquitoes are most likely to be present, and reporting dead birds to local authorities.

You'll want to drain standing water around your home, unclog the gutters where water may be caught, and repair, replace, or install window screens on doors or windows. Here's a simple guide

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for one task that you may need to take care of:

[Repairing Holes in Window Screens](#)

More West Nile Virus information from the CDC:

[Fight the Bite!](#)

[Sunday September 14, 2003](#) #

What's the connection?

What's the connection between the California governor's recall race and home repair? Surprisingly, there is one -- as Arnold Schwarzenegger comes under criticism for remarks on a 1981 appearance on the Tonight Show. He joked with Johnny Carson about a shady home repair job he once had. [Read more...](#)

[Thursday September 11, 2003](#) #

[Smoke Alarm Basics - What You Need to Know](#)

You can prevent tragedies simply by testing and maintaining your smoke alarms and practicing a fire escape plan. All smoke alarms in your house should be tested once a month, and their batteries replaced annually. Every family should develop a fire escape plan and practice it at least twice a year.

[Tuesday September 09, 2003](#) #

Choosing the Right Sandpaper

Lew Soloway, Guide to Woodworking, has some helpful instructions for making knowledgeable selections of sandpaper: [All You Wanted to Know About Sandpaper and Then Some](#)

[Monday September 08, 2003](#) #

Attic Flies - Act Now

The Iowa State Entomology Department has some ideas for getting rid of the flies in your attic this

Preserve access to plumbing, electrical and mechanical components when you finish a basement by installing a suspended ceiling. [Preserve Access in a Basement Ceiling](#)

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winter. They recommend some mid-September actions to prevent the problem.

- [Attic Flies in the House During Winter](#)

[Monday September 08, 2003](#) <#>

Sealing a Crawlspace

Moisture and mold problems in your house? If you have a dirt crawlspace under the house, you might find that sealing the crawlspace will improve the situation.

- [Sealing a Crawlspace](#) - from Fine Homebuilding magazine

[Friday September 05, 2003](#) <#>

[Removing a Tree Stump](#)

Find out how to remove a tree stump without a stump grinder in this handy how-to.

[Wednesday September 03, 2003](#) <#>

[Planning for Wood Expansion and Contraction](#)

About's new Guide to Woodworking, Lew Soloway, explains why wood expands and contracts, and provides a table to help estimate how much change to plan for.

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Accessibility and Universal Design

Guide picks

Accessibility and universal design home improvement plans, ideas and resources for ramps, grab bars, hand rails, kitchens, bathrooms and treehouses.

[Accessibility: Bathrooms](#)

Basic information on improving the accessibility of a bathroom, including widening the doorway, making the shower accessible and safe, adding rails at the toilet and allowing better access to the lavatory.

[Accessibility: Kitchens](#)

Improve the accessibility of a kitchen for those with movement challenges with these tips and techniques.

[Accessibility: Resources and Manufacturers](#)

Find many manufacturers of ramps and accessibility equipment and fixtures for the bathroom and kitchen from this list.

[Building Ramps](#)

Build a ramp for accessibility when needed for someone in your home. This model is modular so that the ramp can be removed to sell the home or when the need no longer exists. The modular accessibility ramp may be then reused in another location.

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[Install Accessibility Ramps](#)

Install a wood handicap wheelchair ramp for accessibility, convenience and safety. Find design requirements and suggestions with some basic illustrations from this commercial site.

[Install Grab Bars and Handrails](#)

To prevent some of the most common falls and injuries in homes, install grab bars around tubs and showers. This page includes basic information on how to install grab bars properly.

[Treehouses for Kids in Wheelchairs](#)

Sound unreal? Wait till you see the video! Bill Allen, an insurance agent and a board member of the Make-A-Wish foundation, has teamed up with Yestermorrow founder John Connell and arborist Bill DeVos to make three so far.

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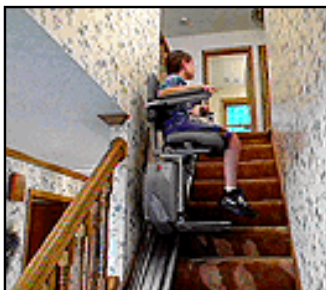
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Accessibility & Universal Design

Building and Remodeling for Accessibility: Remodeling Bathrooms



The bathroom is one of the most vital, but also one of the most difficult rooms in the house to alter. Most bathrooms are small and crowded with fixtures and cabinetry.

We did a few things to improve the accessibility of the bathroom at the same house where we built the ramp. The owners were a family with three boys. One of the boys, Ian, was in a car accident and was paralyzed from the waist down. His bedroom and bathroom are upstairs, so now he uses a lift to get up and

down the stairs.

Sometimes doorways are too narrow for wheelchairs. To give more clearance to Ian's bathroom doorway, we installed swing-clear hinges so the door swings back and out away from the entrance. You can also remove the door stops to get another 1/2" clearance on either side of the entrance. A good alternative to a swinging door is a pocket door.

Ian can roll his chair up sideways to the vanity to brush his teeth. One way to get more room in a bathroom is by replacing a closed-in vanity with a pedestal sink. Although, in this case, the family really needed the storage space in the bathroom.

To get in the shower, Ian was using a transfer chair, but it didn't fit in the tub well and his brothers had to keep moving it when they used the shower.

To make the shower more usable for both Ian and his brothers, we installed a few new gadgets. First a bath bench for him to transfer on, and then a support bar to help support him. Both of these fold up out of the way. To attach the seat to the wall we needed some sort of backing. We ended up tearing into the wall on the other side and installing some supports for us to screw in to.



We also installed a new shower unit with a hand-held shower head that had an on/off switch on it. With this Ian can adjust his water temperature, pull the diverter on the faucet, do his transfer, then turn on the hand-held shower. And we installed a glide bar so he could also hook the shower head on that. When Ian's brothers use the shower they just put the shower head back up in it's normal spot.

The ideal situation here would be a roll-in shower with an adjustable shower seat.



We also put some grab bars around the toilet. On the left side we attached the bar to the cabinet and through some backing we put on the inside of the cabinet. On the right side we had to angle the bar a bit in order to hit the studs, because we didn't want to have to open up this wall and ruin the wallpaper.

This situation isn't ideal either, usually you want room to the side of the toilet for easier transfers. It's also nice to have the toilet seat at the same height as the wheelchair, usually 18 inches, but a removable raised seat works well too.

Ian's house is a good example of what most people face; having to make do with what they have. Obviously, different bathrooms and different people will create different needs. And sometimes totally remodeling a bathroom is a possibility or a real necessity.

At another house we worked on, one of the home owners, Dennis, had been in a car accident and suffered a spinal cord injury which left him quadriplegic. Because of the extent of his condition, the bathroom needed to be totally remodeled and opened up.

The products installed in the bathroom allowed for Dennis's current needs, but were also made adaptable to allow for improvements in his mobility. That's because of this unique rail mounting system. The support arms, shower seat, and even the sink are adjustable both horizontally and vertically.

The shower also has a built-in anti-chill and anti-scald feature to protect Dennis's skin if there's a sudden change in the water temperature.



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Decks: Maintaining or Building a Deck

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If you've got a deck, it requires periodic maintenance, and eventually needs to be replaced. If you don't have a deck, adding it can be a rewarding do-it-yourself project, or you may want to hire a contractor to do the job. Whether maintaining or building a deck, you'll find some ideas here.

[Building Decks](#)

Planning for a deck requires thinking about many issues besides the deck design itself: landscaping, lighting and other electrical connections among them. This guide is aimed at the new homeowner, but if you're adding a deck, it should be helpful, too.

[Choosing Deck Hardware](#)

Galvanized nails, screws, bolts and masonry connectors and post and joist connectors are described and illustrated in this introduction to deck hardware.

[Curved Deck with Synthetic Decking](#)

The folks at Fine Homebuilding Magazine show a multilevel deck with built-in seating and a barbecue pit -- and it's curved. The article includes illustrations and fairly detailed description of the building project.

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How To Get The Most From Your Deck

If your deck has seen better days, is it time to replace it, or can you do maintenance to add to its value? Here are some tips.

Maintain Your Deck

A weekend project you'll need to do every couple of years if you have a deck: check for needed repairs, fix any rotten areas and replace loose nails and boards, prevent future rot, clean the deck, then seal and finish it.

Moisturize to Maintain the Wood

This tip suggests that an oil-base stain or wood preservative will moisturize a deck, adding to its life.

Recapture the Deck Market

Written for contractors, this introduction to some deck materials is also helpful background for the do-it-yourself homeowner or when you're working with a contractor.

TREX Decking Material

Read about a wood-polymer combination product that's designed for decks -- it uses recycled plastic grocery bags.

Weatherproof a Deck

An illustrated guide to preparing the deck and applying the water-repellent staining sealer. Includes materials list and safety tips.

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Building Decks

by Leon A. Frechette

One of the luxuries of shopping for a new home is searching out just the right floor plan, a plan that will fit your own personal needs as well as the needs of your family. Your attention will probably be focused on how large the kitchen should be, how many bedrooms there are, if there is a master bathroom, and so on. But I'm curious. Just how much of your energy will be directed toward a deck and the landscaping that surrounds the deck?

Because decks are not the "platforms" of yesterday, many families have expanded their living space outdoors. This includes the installation of pools and/or hot tubs into the deck and gazebos, which often create a corner entertainment or eating area for the family gathering. Protection of the environment is also of great concern today, and there are many alternative products on the market, such as those

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made out of recycled materials, that could make your deck virtually maintenance-free.

If you are having a new home built, the builder can be a great help in constructing that dream deck. However, if you want to take the challenge and build your own deck, then help is here!

Redwood Design-a-Deck Plans Kit

Of the commonly used materials for building decks—redwood, cedar, and pressure-treated wood including alternative materials—I find redwood to be the ultimate wood of choice for decking boards, railing systems, outdoor furniture, and other exterior uses. No one knows that better than the California Redwood Association. The Association offers a kit to help you design and complete your dream deck. The Redwood Design-a-Deck Plans Kit is filled with the necessary tools to take you step-by-step through the process. Included are comprehensive instructions (28-pages), construction tips, a technical data sheet, framing plans, materials lists and, what I found very interesting, static-cling templates. With this kit you can design your deck and see it completed before you even build it. The kit even includes accessory items such as decking furniture, tables, barbecue, hot tub, and planters. It makes designing your project easy, inexpensive, and fun all at the same time!

At \$19.50 (including shipping), this kit is worth every penny especially for those individuals who are tackling a project such as this for the first time. To get your kit, write to the California Redwood Association at the address shown at the end of this article.

Careful Planning Required

As you design your deck, you should take into account how you plan to use it. It is a whole lot easier to incorporate your ideas into the deck's design before construction than to realize after the deck has been completed that it really doesn't meet your needs. Some important things to consider include:

- Will the deck going be used for entertaining?
- Are any special designs planned for the guardrail?
- Will there be an area for eating?
- Have you considered a spa of some sort?
- How about a ramp?
- Have you thought about an overhead structure?
- Would planter boxes be an attractive addition?
- Do you have trees in the area where the deck will be built?
- Have you considered lights for evening entertaining?
- Would built-in benches meet your needs?
- Are you restricted on placement and/or height of the deck?

A deck should reflect your own personality, help satisfy your needs and wants, and most importantly, not detract from the aesthetics or resale value of the home. Rather, it should add to that value when the time to sell comes. Close attention needs to be paid to attractively incorporate the deck to its surrounding environment.

Gazebos

Gazebos can add a touch of class to any deck, but they are not the easiest structure to build.

CaddCon Designs can help with your own design, or you can purchase plans they've designed for decks, gazebos, and screened porches. All their plans include a material list; instructions; construction details; and footer, framing, decking, and handrail plans. A toll-free number for CaddCon Designs is provided at the end of this article.

Landscaping

Attractive and appropriate landscaping should not be overlooked as you plan your deck and once your deck has been completed. Not only will landscaping enhance the deck and provide you with a great sense of accomplishment, but you and your friends and relatives will be treated to an environment worth viewing from your deck.

As I mentioned before, a gazebo can enhance a deck, but it doesn't necessarily have to be built on top of or connected to the deck. If you have the room, how about setting a gazebo out and away from your deck to create a special place—a private little getaway!

Have you considered installing a pond and/or waterfall(s) to really capture that outdoor feeling? If you have trees, don't be afraid to build the deck around them. You can always build a bench around at least one of the trees. Nothing looks more comfortable than a bench around a big old maple tree. Of course, it can be quite romantic on a starry summer evening. If you do decide to incorporate a tree or two, be sure to allow enough room between the tree and the main framework. Placing two rows of 2" x 6" decking boards in an octagon shape around the tree will allow you to remove a row as the tree matures.

DesignWood

Many landscaping projects include railroad ties or some form of treated material, and that's OK. But if you are looking for something different that is easy to install and gives you some flexibility to your design, then consider DesignWood by Thompson Industries, Inc. DesignWood is a pressure-treated interlocking landscaping timber available in 4" x 4" and 6" x 6". What makes this product different is that the timbers are pre-drilled and shaped to interlock with joint-pins at any angle through 180°.

DesignWood is great for creating borders, planters, retaining walls, sandboxes, raised-bed gardens, corner planters, and/or a planter/bench top combination as well as a bench top alone. It is easy to achieve angles, curves, and an S-shaped border. This is an appealing alternative product that makes landscaping a real pleasure. For information, contact Thompson Industries, Inc., at the toll-free number provided at the end of this article.

Lighting & Other Electrical Concerns

Your deck looks so grand during the day—but is it useful after nightfall? Have you thought about lighting? Lighting can play a major role in the performance of the deck and how it can be used at night. Lighting is not only functional but also brings out the beauty of the deck. Also, any deck accessories (toys) you choose to use most likely will require electricity. Some of these could include:

- Radio or stereo equipment
- "Bug zapper"
- Hot tub
- Lighting (spot or floodlights)

- Rotisserie for the barbecue
- Timer

Some of these items may be hard-wired (direct) or require receptacles, so plan to run 120 volt, 240 volt, or both. Include enough receptacles to cover these items without the use of an extension cord. Also include a switch to activate some of the receptacles, e.g., for the bug zapper. Incorporate appropriate wiring and receptacles during the design stage so wires can be concealed in the framing with conduits (PVC or metal) or buried using UF (underground fused) cable at least 1' underground. Be sure to check the local electrical codes concerning electrical installation.

Receptacles need to be placed in outlet boxes approved for outdoor use, i.e., watertight. The outlet box covers need gaskets and the receptacles themselves—ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs), of course—should have a spring-loaded cover with a gasket or a weatherproof outlet cover. I am a firm believer that an electrician should be hired for this part of the job. Besides, your state may require a licensed electrician.

Low-Voltage Lighting

Low-Voltage Lighting can enhance the natural beauty of the home, driveway, sidewalks, gardens, and finished deck. Consider using low-voltage outdoor lighting. In fact, this is something you can do on your own. To get started, obtain a copy of **Light Up Your Life** from Intermatic Malibu, a company that specializes in low-voltage systems. This 52-page booklet covers the selection (styles of lights), installation, and maintenance of low-voltage lighting systems and, better yet, an understanding of how low-voltage lighting works. It's available for \$1.75 to cover postage and

handling. Write to: Lighting Book, Intermatic Malibu, at the address given at the end of this article.

A low-voltage outdoor lighting system can have a dramatic impact on a home's appearance. According to Phil L. Kinzer, Marketing Manager for Intermatic Malibu, setting the proper "lightscaping mood" isn't as difficult as one might think. Kinzer recommends that you select one or two focal points to highlight, such as a tree, pathway, flower bed, etc. Then he suggests using a variety of lighting techniques, such as downlighting, uplighting, and cross lighting, to achieve special effects. Here are some other general recommendations:

- **Try to conceal the light source**, unless the lights themselves are to be a focal point.
- **Don't overlight**. A little light goes a long way.
- **Strive for a natural look**. Lighting should imitate moonlight or filtered light without glare.
- **Consider illuminating steps, paths, and changes in the sidewalk level**, or any potential obstacles that may cause injury.
- **Situate lights so they don't shine into a neighbor's window** or cause unpleasant glare when viewed from neighboring homes and yards.
- **Keep color in mind**. Colored lenses are available for most floodlights. In addition, some companies now offer silicone-colored bulb sleeves to change the color of tier lights, deck lights, walkway lights, and entrance lights.
- **Consider the ease of servicing the lights**. Make sure they are easy to reach so that changing lamps and cleaning lenses is as

simple as possible.

It's a good idea to incorporate lights into the deck's design before actual construction begins. Many styles of deck lights are available. Some lights can be mounted either horizontally or vertically and are great for under steps, benches and for railings. Choose the correct light to give unique lighting effects that you will enjoy.

Some of the lighting effects to consider incorporating include:

- **Path Lighting.** Install along walkways or other places where careful footing is required. Such lighting makes the walkway both safe and eye-pleasing at the same time.
- **Spotlighting.** A sequence of spotlights can create an intriguing mosaic of colors and textures. After dark, unusual textures on garden walls can create attractive focal points.
- **Uplighting.** Uplighting is great for interesting objects such as statues, fountains, or tree foliage canopies. Be sure to direct any glare away from the view. Concealing fixtures behind shrubbery affords the most natural appearance.
- **Crosslighting.** In this type of application, the unusual interaction of beams of light can yield as much visual artistry as the feature being illuminated. Again, direct any glare away from the viewer and conceal fixtures behind shrubbery for the most natural look.
- **Highlighting.** Providing imaginative illumination on a broad surface behind a landscaping feature creates a showplace for that feature. The larger illuminated area also increases safety and security.
- **Floodlighting.** Floodlights are versatile for

illuminating a wide range of landscaping features. Garden ponds, gazebos, statues, and prized plant specimens all become more visually impressive when properly lit with low-voltage lighting products.

When creating a lighting plan, take a walk both before and after dark around the yard. Observe the different lighting effects created by the sun and the moon on the area where the deck will be built and the surrounding landscaping. Remember to use the three basic lighting techniques when recreating these effects:

- **Choose a focal point.** Look for the main features around the deck, home, and landscaping. Select the main element(s) around which to design the lighting plan. Choose no more than one or two focal points. A good focal point may be a large tree, a main entrance, a front walk, or a landscaped island.
- **Plan for safety and security.** Look for dark spots in corners and behind large bushes. Look for potentially hazardous steps and curbs. Plan to light these areas for both safety and security. Consider adding infrared motion detectors and photo control accessories to automatically turn lights on to scare off would-be intruders.
- **Combine lighting techniques.** For maximum interest and appeal, blend different lighting techniques into one plan. For example, backlight a row of bushes along a wall, or uplight a nearby small tree while downlighting the surrounding low ground cover.

If you have space and the opportunity to install a pool or if you have an existing one, you will find

that if you incorporate a deck around it, it will seem as though you have a small pond out in the backyard. By connecting two decks with a third, it will appear as though the surrounding decks are floating.

No matter what direction your deck plans take you in, be sure to consult with your local building department to ensure that the deck will meet all applicable codes in force in your area. Also, make sure that deck is truly your "dream deck" and will meet both your vision and your lifestyle.

For more information and to obtain the products detailed in the article, call or write:

Redwood Design-a-Deck Plans Kit—(\$19.50)
California Redwood Association
405 Enfrente Drive, Suite 200
Novato, CA 94949

CaddCon Designs, 800-821-3325, to obtain
their complete catalog—(\$3.00)

Thompson Industries, Inc., 800-643-5934

Lighting Book—(\$1.75)
Intermatic Malibu
Intermatic Plaza
Spring Grove, IL 60081

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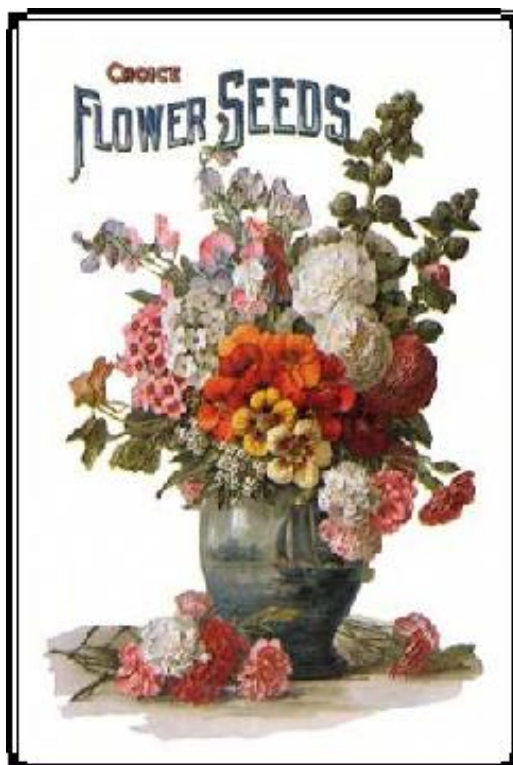
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From My Garden to Yours!

An English Proverb

Kind hearts are the gardens;

Kind thoughts are the roots;

Kind words are the flowers;

Kind deeds are the fruits.



Have you yearned to have a "master plan" for your yard or to understand soil tests and plant hardiness zones? Here is the place to gather information, investigate new ideas and learn how to realistically make your landscape dreams work. These pages are written for all homeowners, those who are just starting out as well as those who have lived in the same home for decades. It is my hope that these articles and links will help banish the confusion and dissatisfied feelings common to those wanting to create their own special landscape. Please stop by often to read what's new, ask questions, and take part in discussions.

There are more articles on basic home landscaping archived at [A Homeowners Guide to Landscaping](#)

[This Week at Hilton Pond](#), an eclectic diary from the Piedmont Nature Center in North Carolina, is a great way for gardeners in the eastern temperate U.S. to learn more about the critters who cohabit our world.

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For more information regarding SuiteUniversity please contact [Bryan Bradshaw](#)

My Recommended Books



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Elizabeth Barlow Rogers
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Top Five Web Sites



[Association of Professional Landscape Designers](#)

Welcome to the wonderful world of Landscape Design! This site provides information on what a landscape designer does, how to find a APLD speaker for your local garden club, rotary or other organization, and what it means to hire a certified designer. Some of APLD members award winning projects are also on view here.



[Canadian Plant Hardiness Zones](#)

A direct link to the Plant Hardiness Zones in Canada as well as more Canadian Links: Indicator trees, Indicator shrubs, Going beyond the zone, the 1967 Plant Hardiness map postscript file, the 2000 Plant Hardiness map pdf file, and how to place an order for a hard copy of the Plant Hardiness Zone Map (quantities limited).

Please be sure to enjoy new and useful information in the Bulletins below and then scroll down to access the newest article here at [Designing Home Landscapes](#).

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★★★★★
[International Society of Arboriculture](#)

Information on 18 different topics including all aspects of tree care, how to hire an arborist and how to find an arborist in your area. Also information on Tour des Trees, an annual week-long cycling event to raise money and awareness for the Tree Research & Education Endowment Fund (TREE Fund).

★★★★★
[National Arboretum](#)

A site which offers much for the homeowner including an interactive edition of the latest USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map. There is also a new Invasive Plants Page as well as New Plant Introductions section.

If you like these links, there are [more links](#) available.

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15 Sep 2003 Featured Article **[Ireland's Oldest Garden - Part II](#)**

A virtual tour of exiting 17th and 18th century features at Ireland's Oldest Garden, Killruddery Gardens, Bray, County Wicklow.

15 Aug 2003 **[Ireland's Oldest Garden](#)**

A description of Killruddery House and Gardens near the seaside town of Bray in County Wicklow (Ireland) is like having a garden history book open wide to pages devoted to the 17th through early 19th centuries. These gardens, which date from the 1680's, are thought to be Ireland's oldest surviving formal gardens. Part I describes some of the the cultural, social and even political pressures on Ireland's Norman – Anglo – Irish landed gentry which lead to building gardens such as Killruddery.

15 Jul 2003 **[Library in a Wicker Basket](#)**

Brief descriptions of horticulture and gardening books the author knows, loves and uses with great frequency and regularity.

29 Jun 2003

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A comparison of purist and old-fashioned or traditional gardeners. A look at the joys and pitfalls each might encounter in pursuing a unique style.

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A brief look at the research, joys of discovery, and some pitfalls a home gardener might encounter in designing a landscape for an historical home.

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HANDYMAN Q&A

After Cleaning a Deck, Moisturize to Maintain the Wood

By MORRIS CAREY and JAMES CAREY,
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Question: What do you recommend for washing and finishing a wood deck?

Answer: Powdered laundry detergent and hot water are usually enough to clean a moderately dirty deck. But if the deck is older, it might need a chemical wood brightener along with a pressure-washing.

Once it's clean, moisturize the wood with an oil-base stain or wood preservative. But don't buy any product with wax in it. When you wet a wood surface that has been sealed with wax, the water will bead beautifully.

Unfortunately, that beautiful coat of wax doesn't penetrate as far beneath the surface as oil does. Wax evaporates far more rapidly than oil--about two to three times as fast.

A good wood preservative also has chemicals that prevent damage from the sun's ultraviolet rays and from mildew attack.

Windows Sweat Because Airtight Seal Was Broken

Q: I have casement windows that used to have blinds between the two panes of glass. The previous owner removed the blinds. The windows sweat terribly.

Must I replace the windows or is there some type of repair? They sweat winter and

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summer. I need a permanent repair, not a temporary fix.

A: When the last owner removed the blinds, he permanently broke the airtight seal around your insulated glass windows. We find it interesting that the prior owner had the wherewithal to disassemble the windows, remove the blinds and reassemble everything without realizing he was permanently destroying the insulating value of each window he worked on.

The brand you have is probably Pella. They have been making this type of window for a long time. You would be wise to call a Pella dealer and ask to have just the insulated glass sections replaced.

Pella will probably be more expensive than a local glass company, but the warranty might be better.

With insulated glass, warranty is everything. Some window companies now offer lifetime warranties.

Use Existing Frame to Install Vinyl Window

Q: How do I replace a window that is double-hung with sash weights? I want to replace it with a new vinyl window.

A: Replacing a double-hung wood window with a vinyl one is simple and cost-effective, as long as the main frame of the existing window is in good condition and can be reused.

First, remove all the trim from the four inside faces of the main frame. You don't have to remove the ropes and weights; they can be left in the frame's hollow sides. We suggest spraying expansive foam into the balance of the void to improve energy efficiency.

Without the trim, it's apparent that the main frame has an offset in it that goes all the way around. The inside half of the frame is slightly smaller than the outside half of the frame.

The replacement window comes in its own frame and is set in place from the outside, fitting into the larger opening. It butts against the face of the smaller portion of the frame.

If the main frame doesn't have a jog, wood trim is added to create one. Trim is used to cover the caulked joint between the frame of the new window and the old one. Our first double-hung window replacement job took about 60 minutes per opening--removal, installation, caulking, trim and paint touch-up. This can be done as a do-it-yourself project.

Mitering, Coping: Two Ways of Cutting Corners

Q: In putting up crown molding, I understand that there is a more attractive way to do corners than mitering. What is it? How do you do it?

A: Mitering is the quickest and easiest way to cut and join moldings at corners where it is important for the moldings to appear that there is no

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seam at the joint.

With mitering, the ends to be joined on each of the two pieces of wood are cut at an angle equal to half that of the corner angle. For example: miter cuts at a 90-degree corner would each be at 45 degrees.

Coping is an optional technique, and some say it is better than mitering. But it can only be used for inside corners. Here, a coping saw is used to cut the shape of one molding into the one joining it--an end-to-face connection. A coped cut is best made with a slight bevel to ensure a tight joint at the face of the molding.

Coping cannot be used for outside corners. Here a miter must be used. Properly cut, a miter is every bit as good as--if not better than--a coped joint, especially when the molding is large and has an intricate pattern.

Prefab corners are available with some crown moldings that eliminate the need for a miter cut and simplify installation. However, most crown moldings are stand-alone items and must be installed with a miter and/or a cope cut.

If you want other stories on this topic, search the Archives at <http://www.latimes.com/archives>.



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Weatherproof a Deck

For best results, pick a cool day with low humidity.

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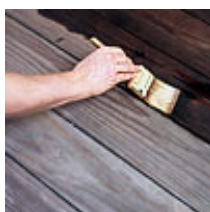
STEP 1



Clean the wood with a dilute solution of household bleach or with a deck cleaner, and hose it off. Wearing a dust mask, sand

any rough areas as needed, and sweep away the sawdust.

STEP 2



Wearing safety goggles, apply a clear or staining sealer with a brush or sprayer. If using a brush, work with the

grain and drive the bristles into the crevices between boards. Also seal the underside of the boards and the joists, beams, and posts.

what you'll need

1. Dust mask
2. Paint sprayer (optional)
3. Garden hose
4. Safety goggles
5. Pail of household bleach and water or deck cleaner
6. Belt sander or medium sandpaper
7. Water-repellent staining sealer
8. Paintbrush
9. Broom

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STEP 3



With a paintbrush, carefully smooth any drips at the ends of the boards. If using a sprayer, backbrush the surface.

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AND KEEP IN MIND



When brushing on stain, always work to a wet edge to avoid unsightly overlap marks. Start each new brushload from an unfinished area, moving toward the wet edge. Then brush back to where you began.

SOURCE: From the book [1001 Do-It-Yourself Hints & Tips](#), published by [The Reader's Digest Association, Inc.](#)

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Choosing Deck Hardware

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Introduction

Using the right fasteners is important. This is no place to save a few dollars. Fasteners and connectors must withstand years of exposure without rusting or otherwise weakening their grip. Every fastener should be suitable for long-term exterior use.

Galvanizing is the most common treatment for metal fasteners used outdoors. But there are differences in the methods and materials used in galvanizing. The best



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Using the right fasteners will help ensure a long life for your deck.

process is hot-dip galvanizing, in which the fastener is dipped in molten zinc. The thickest coating of zinc is found on fasteners that meet that standard-ASTM A153.

Stainless steel fasteners cost considerably more, but they are extremely resistant to degradation. Use them near saltwater or other regularly wet or corrosive conditions. Aluminum fasteners are not recommended.

Next Page: [Using galvanized nails](#)

.....

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Appliance Repair and Maintenance

Guide picks

Appliance repair, maintenance and installation. Advice, tips, links and guidance on troubleshooting, diagnosing and fixing most common problems. Advice on how to do it yourself.

[Garbage Disposal Repair and Maintenance](#)

Find tips and step-by-step do-it-yourself guides to repairing and maintaining your garbage disposal unit.

[Clean Those Lint Traps: Clothes Dryer Safety](#)

Learn about clothes dryer fires and the practices and maintenance needed to prevent them.

[Clothes Dryer Vents - Simple Solutions](#)

Tips on modifying a dryer vent that's venting indoors instead of to the outside.

[Dishwasher Maintenance](#)

Maintaining your dishwasher will help keep small problems from becoming major ones. This illustrated guide includes checking and replacing gaskets, cleaning the sprayer, solving rust problems and leveling the dishwasher.

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In The Spotlight

[Appalachian "Sang" Collecting](#)

The above link provides photos of "sang" habitat and how ginseng is harvested. The most productive sites are under mature eastern U.S. hardwood stands sloping to the northeast. There is almost always a moist but well-drained and thick litter layer with just a tad of undergrowth associated with the plant.



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[Friday September 19, 2003](#) #

[Forestry Career FAQ](#)

Fall always brings a renewed interest in the outdoors. My email increases from people interested in finding an outdoor job and specifically how one can work in forestry and related occupations. I have prepared answers to ten of the most frequently asked questions on forestry careers along with tips on how to find a forestry job.

[Employment and Careers in Forestry](#)

[Wednesday September 17, 2003](#) #

[Measure and Sell Your Trees](#)

Forest owners may sell trees only two or three times while controlling a forested property. These growers may invest decades of time and expense in trees only to make costly mistakes at the time of sale.

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**Did You
Know?**

I've developed a catalog of informative sites and call the collection [Forestry 101 - A Forest and Tree Orientation](#). If you are contemplating a harvest, you owe it to yourself and your investments to review the [Measure and Sell Your Trees](#) section of this guide.

[Tuesday September 16, 2003](#) #

[A Surprisingly Informed Customer](#)

"I was talking with my consulting forester about the management plan we were going to do. This gent was the owner of the company. He mentioned that my solicitation letter really drew attention...I took the opportunity to mention that I'd received all that help through forestry.about.com". - THORUS3

[Monday September 15, 2003](#) #

[Tree Finder - A Manual for the Identification of Trees by Their Leaves](#)

May Theilgaard Watts' *Tree Finder* is the best economy-priced, pocket-sized tree identification manual available for trees east of Rocky Mountains. Ideal for people on budgets and those who need a carry along manual. Read my review.

[Monday September 15, 2003](#) #

Aboriginal Canadians Can Cut Timber

Tribunal justices have agreed that tribal Indians own the logging rights on Crown property subject to treaty. The ruling was upheld after New Brunswick Mi'kmaq logger Joshua Bernard charged that treaty rights give him harvesting rights on Crown land.

This decision has vexed forest industry and the provincial government and is perceived as a threat to Crown natural resource rights.

New Brunswick Forest Products Association president

Here is a great way to identify a tree in your yard or in the forest. Find yourself a tree, collect a leaf or needle and answer the following questions. [ID Your Tree](#)

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Yvon Poitras was quoted as saying "Anytime you change the game in the forestry industry in the province it's dangerous, you could create problems. We'll just have to wait and see what happens now." It is expected that the Court of Appeals will agree to allow tribal members "equitable access to identified resources for purposes of earning a moderate living."

The First Perspective-Aboriginal, First Nations and Native News in Canada

[Sunday September 14, 2003](#) #

Eighty Year Old Chestnut Discovered

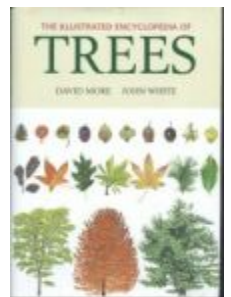
A very rare find in 1999 on a Kentucky cattle farm could lead to the propagation of a blight-resistant American Chestnut reports the [Louisville Courier-Journal](#). This 80 year old Adair County, Kentucky, chestnut tree miraculously survived the blight that decimated American chestnuts throughout eastern forests.

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[Sunday September 14, 2003](#) #

Review of Illustrated Encyclopedia of Trees

David More, illustrator of *The Illustrated Encyclopedia of Trees*, paints himself a tree masterpiece. With John White's accompanying text, Mr. More exhibits most of the trees on this planet in one 800 page document. Moore leaves no tree leaf undisturbed.



Over 1,000 trees are shown together with cultivar information and a brief history of their introduction to cultivation. Most species have growth, hardiness, wood and choice ratings for those who are interested in both horticultural and commercial forestry applications.

The book explains why so many North American

trees have been cultivated in Europe and how forests in the Western Hemisphere are of major importance to British and European landscapes. A fascinating picture book if you love trees.

[Saturday September 13, 2003](#) <#>

Autumn Tree Identification Resources and Field Guides

The first day of fall and the beginning of leaf viewing season starts September 23rd. If you have a real passion for leaf viewing or know someone with that passion, please review these five fall viewing guides. Each guide is loaded with information and can be bought new or used at a discount on links I have provided.

[Thursday September 11, 2003](#) <#>

Stealing Trees: Three Easy Methods

Tom Kazee runs *Woodland Security Inc.* in Orange Park, Florida. Tom has twelve years of experience in the woodland security business and contributes regularly to *Tree Farmer Magazine*. He has written a great piece on simple timber theft.

Kazee suggests there are basically three ways to steal timber. As a timber owner or forest manager you would be wise to study these methods of theft and take preventative actions to avoid a rip-off.

Although the vast majority of people who buy and harvest trees are honest there are people who will cheat and try to deceive for financial gain.

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In The Spotlight

[How to Choose the Right Sandpaper - Part 1](#)

This is Part 1 in a two-part series on the five things to consider when buying sandpaper for your woodworking and finishing projects. This part covers types of abrasives used in sandpaper and grit sizes. Part 2 addresses binders, backing material, and optional adherence materials.

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[How to Choose the Right Sandpaper - Part 2](#)

This is Part 2 in a two-part series on the five things to consider when buying sandpaper for your woodworking and finishing projects. This part covers binders, backing material, and optional adherence materials. Part 1 addresses types of abrasives used in sandpaper and grit sizes.

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[How to Prepare Lumber for Your Woodworking Projects](#)

Your guide takes you through the eight steps on how to prepare lumber for your next woodworking project. Whether you buy lumber rough or surfaced from the mill, the lumber yard, a home center, or a specialty wood store you have to prepare the lumber for use.

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Wood expands and shrinks. Your guide discusses why wood moves, provides a formula for calculating the movement, and points out where wood movement can be an important consideration in your project design.

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Every woodworker needs hand tools. Here's a list of tools for the

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woodworker just starting out. This list is by no means exhaustive - its only meant to be a guide. A future article will include an extended list for the more experienced woodworker.

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Your guide discusses the basic types of files and rasps used in woodworking. The difference between files and rasps is explained. Then the purpose of each type of file and rasp is discussed.

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Project Design

[Guide picks](#)

Project Design addresses design considerations and principles for your woodworking projects. Whether you use others' plans directly, modify them, or develop plans yourself, this section should provide tools for success.

[Planning for Wood Expansion and Contraction](#)

Wood expands and shrinks. Your guide discusses why wood moves, provides a formula for calculating the movement, and points out where wood movement can be an important consideration in your project design.

[Furniture Design Standards](#)

This article from Woodbin.com discusses the development of furniture design standards as they relate to beds, chairs, desks, kitchen cabinets, shelves, and tables. It serves as a good starting place for your design since standards are based on average people.

[Planning and Layout](#)

Here are a number of planning and layout tips from Woodbin.com.

[Project Design and Planning](#)

This is an excellent article from Woodbin.com that addresses project design and planning from developing the idea to design tips to creating sketches, working drawings, bills of material, cut lists, and plans of procedure.

[The Sagulator](#)

Shelves will deflect and sag if not designed properly. The Sagulator from Woodbin helps you design shelves by calculating shelf sag (deflection) given type of shelf material, shelf load, length, width, and thickness. This on-line utility also offers tips on usage.

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The Shrinkulator

Wood expands and contracts. Wood movement must be taken into consideration when building a project or it could crack and break apart. Did you ever experience stuck drawers and doors? The Shrinkulator from Woodbin helps you estimate dimensional changes in wood, either shrinkage or expansion, based on changes in the wood's moisture content. Its a humidity thing!

Wood Magazine Design Principles

This is a new section of the website for *Wood Magazine*. Check back often because they will be adding to the site.

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- Create a bill of materials and plan of procedure and work from them.
- Learn how to use a simple CAD package.
- Use the [Tabulator](#) to create a lumber list.
- Buy 15 to 20 percent more wood for the project than you think you'll need.
- Create a "mock-up" using cardboard, cheap wood, or styrofoam panels.
- Avoid mixing straight grain with wavy or highly figured grain.
- Lay out all parts before cutting any boards.
- Lay out cutlines for parts using chalk.
- Lay out larger pieces before smaller ones.
- Consider using "story poles" for laying out cutlines.
- Make allowances for saw kerf.
- Use templates for laying out multiple copies of complex pieces.

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- Use the same measuring tools for the entire project.
- Measure a series of lengths from one reference point rather than point to point.

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A beautiful cherry bed to accompany Woodsmith's suite of cherry bedroom furniture.



[Prairie Spindle Bed](#)

Its classic look, solid wood construction, and corbel brackets are a favorite among all.



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Solid wood top rails, tongue-and-groove headboard slats. A true family keepsake!



[Cherry Bedside Table](#)

A companion table for the heirloom bed featuring solid wood construction and elegant details.



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One minute it's a relaxing sofa. The next, it's a comfortable bed. Sturdy oak frame.



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Matching pieces for your futon sofa –a futon recliner and ottoman. Both use standard futon cushions.



[Mission Bunk Beds](#)

Looking for a stylish, original bunk bed design?
For bunk beds, simply invert one bed on top of the other, and reposition its plywood mattress support.



[Bunk Beds](#)

With these plans, you can build just a single bed, or build two single beds and stack them. Features sliding storage compartment underneath.



[Child's Loft Bed](#)

This versatile loft bed features accomodates a large desk, storage space for school supplies, books, toys, and a big bulletin board.

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Classic Cherry Bed



At last, a beautiful cherry bed to accompany Woodsmith's popular suite of cherry bedroom furniture that includes the [Lingerie Dresser](#), the [Night Stand](#)*, the [Armoire](#)*, and the [Four-Drawer Dresser](#)*. (*Also available on [PlansNOW](#)) The bed is designed to fit a queen-size mattress, but these plans include variations for a full-size and twin-size mattress.



This project was originally featured in **Woodsmith** No. 108.

CONSTRUCTION: The Classic Cherry Bed is 71" wide by 88-1/2" deep by 45" high (queen-size). The completed project consists of a headboard, a footboard, two side rails, a stretcher, and four mattress slats. The rails are connected to the headboard and footboard with knock-down bed rail fasteners which can be easily disassembled for moving or storage.



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Helps you calculate the angle of a jeweler's saw blade or scroll saw blade if you are inlaying any material into another. Courtesy of Dave Bilger of [B&B Rare Woods](#), Mac/Windows.

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An affordable, complete order processing and inventory control system for cabinet, furniture, fixture and millwork manufacturing. Designed for small companies (10 to 40 employees). Feldman Engineering Corporation, Windows.

[Component/Summary Sheet](#)

Excel spreadsheet that computes costs and material requirements for cabinetmakers. Component sheet is for listing components, dimensions and time. Summary sheet is for summing selected groups and setting waste variables. Courtesy of [Lars Gandarve](#). Windows.

[DesignWorkshop Lite](#)

Build your own 3D models for home design and visualization of architecture, landscapes, exhibits, or any kind of spatial design. Artifice Inc., Windows or Mac.

[Desktop Themes for Woodworkers](#)

An interesting collection of woodworking pictures that can be installed as background images or screensavers. Courtesy of Stephen Waddell. Windows.

[Dovetail Template Maker](#) [Windows](#)

Here's a program that generates dovetail templates (for Incra and JointTech dovetail jigs) given board thickness, width, size,

angle of dovetail bit, and number of dovetails. Courtesy of Tom Giammo, Crestline Enterprises.

[Face-Frame Cabinet Cut List Calculator](#) [Excel workbook](#)

Just enter finished cabinet dimensions and this utility creates cut and cost lists for the various cabinet components. Courtesy of Jay C. Heil.

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Downloadable calculator to convert from inches to millimeters. Courtesy of Peter Havel.

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A nicely packaged 2D CAD product with many features and a high degree of compatibility with the AutoCAD command set, as well as AutoLISP and Autodesk ADS. **Free Download!**

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[Palm Pilot Board Foot Calculator](#)

Computes board feet for single boards or entire projects. When you go to buy materials, you can input the size boards available, and it tells you how many to buy! George Ziegler, Palm Pilot. (Freeand registered versions)

[Panel Pro](#) [Windows](#)

Creates a bill of materials for a panel door given dimensions of opening, panel, rail and stile parameters and seasonal movement allowance. Courtesy of Lars Thomas, Chesapeake Woodworks.

[Polycut](#) [Windows](#)

A nifty little utility for graphically laying out angles of compound mitres. Courtesy of John McGaw and Badger Pond.

[Screensaver](#) - Over 30 pictures of exotic and domestic woods. Courtesy of Willard Brothers.

[Shelf Deflection Software](#) [DOS](#)

Suite of 5 modules for computing shelf deflection, loading, and related parameters. Also includes comparative table of 38 wood species. Courtesy of Steve Stephenson.

[TurboCAD 2D](#) includes 200 drawing and dimensioning tools, an easy-to-use Windows interface and compatibility with MS Office.

[WoodIndex](#) [Online utility](#)

A searchable online index of woodworking articles from 9 popular magazines dating back to 1982. Many search results link directly to the publisher's 'backissues' section. The index is updated monthly. www.woodindex.com

[Wood Movement Calculator](#) [Windows](#)

Computes the dimensions of lumber at specified moisture contents so you can better allow for wood movement in your furniture designs. If you like the program, the author, E.C. Aumiller, says a \$1 to \$5 donation would be appreciated. Sounds like a good deal to me

[Wood Movement Calculator](#) [Windows](#)

Performs four different types of calculations with respect to wood shrinkage. And the download page contains lots of meaty technical info about wood shrinkage/expansion. Courtesy of Larry Marker.

[Woodpro](#) [DOS](#)

A lumber database and wood selection system featuring 331 common types of wood and their properties. Courtesy of Ken Young.

[Woodsearch](#) [Excel workbook](#)

A research-aid containing over 16,000 common wood names and their corresponding species names. Includes several wood searching and sorting macros. Courtesy of Dave Bilger of [B&B](#)

[Rare Woods](#), Mac/Windows.

[Woodsearch](#) [Online utility](#)

An online version of the Woodsearch Excel workbook. Type in the common or species name and get a list of all matching woods. Courtesy of Rick's Woodshop Creations and Dave Bilger.

[Woodworkers Calculator](#)

Performs simple operations on fractional and/or decimal data and converts between data formats. Enables working in inches or feet. Mike Hankey, Windows.

[Woodworking Price Estimator](#) - an online wizard for project cost estimating. From the makers of CutList Plus.

Charts and Reference Info

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