Sheds

Prep Guide

Gillies & Mackay

'Built to last a lifetime'

Contents

Page 3 Introduction

Page 4 Planning Permission / Building Control

Page 6 - 7 Site Preparation

Page 8 Ordering Process

Page 10 Installation Timeline

Page 11 Aftercare

Introduction

Are you ready to transform your garden?

With a Gillies & Mackay Shed, you're not just getting a place to store your tools - you're investing in a beautiful, dedicated space built to last a lifetime. Whether it's for gardening, DIY projects, or just keeping your outdoor space tidy, our Sheds are built with care, precision, and a whole lot of love.

The single-skinned Shed specification is available for Sheds up to 12m^2. They are the perfect choice for most gardens.

But here's the thing: before we roll up with your dream Shed, there are a few key steps to get your site ready. Don't worry - this Guide will walk you through everything you need to know.

Planning Permission / Building Control

One of the great things about single-skinned Sheds is that most **don't require planning permission** or Building Control. However, there are some rules to keep in mind:

- **Boundary & Heights**

  If your Shed is within 1m of a boundary, the maximum height allowed is 2.5m. If you're further away, your Shed can be up to 4m high. Luckily, all our Sheds are designed to comply with these limits.

- **Garden Area**

  Your Shed can't take up more than 50% of your garden area.

- **Special Cases**

  Conservation area? Listed property? Terraced house? You may need planning permission, but we're here to help if you're unsure.

Most customers won't need to worry about these regulations, However, if you are in a special category, don't fret. We submit around 20+ **planning applications** a year. Just ask during your Consultation and we'll guide you.

Site Preparation

Here's where we roll up our sleeves and make sure your Shed has the perfect home.

1. The Base: Your Shed's Foundation

Your single-skinned Shed needs a proper base - it's the foundation of your Shed's strength and durability. This step is so important that we can't stress it enough!

Base Options:

- **Paving Slabs:** The preferred base for all Sheds as long as they're laid correctly and are fully level.
- **Breeze Blocks:** A practical and affordable choice for a site (compact ground) that's already level. Suitable for Sheds up to and including 12' x 10'.

What Does a Perfect Base Look Like?

- **Level:** Sheds have bearers and what they sit on must be level. This makes sure the building aligns properly and the doors stay in square.
- **Sized Correctly:** Your base should fit to the metric dimensions of your shed. If it's too small, the Shed won't sit properly. Too big? It could lead to water pooling.

What's NOT Okay:

- Grass, soil, or any surface that's uneven or unstable.
- Bases that are "almost level" but not quite. The tolerance is 2" - anything more means we cannot guarantee the longevity of the building.

Need Help with the Base?

Many of our customers either build their own base or already have one in place. If that's you, use our "What kind of base do I need for a Shed?" blog post to check if it's up to scratch. If you're not confident, best ask us to conduct a Site Visit to let you know what would be best. We can also organise groundworks if you'd like us to take care of the full project.

2. Access: Getting Your Shed to the Site

Your Shed is delivered in sectional panels, which means our team will carry each piece by hand from the flatbed van to the site. This is why clear and safe access is essential.

What We Need To Know About Your Access:

- **Width:** Are pathways wide enough to carry panels? (Some can be over 3m long!)
- **Obstacles:** Steps, tight corners, or overgrown shrubs can slow things down or stop us entirely.
- **Parking:** We'll need space for the van as close to your site as possible.

If you're worried about access, send us some photos or have a chat during your Consultation. If there are significant challenges, we might recommend a Site Visit to assess what's needed.

Ordering Process

Ready to get started? Here's how it works:

Step 1: Consultation

Book a no-obligation Consultation. These happen in-person, via video call or over the phone - whatever suits you best. We'll chat about everything you need to know - your site, the size and style of your Shed, and any potential challenges with the base or access.

Step 2: Order Form

We'll send you your order form that includes the cost of your Shed and delivery. If there are any special requirements, we'll flag them here and include the full terms of sale, expected aftercare, guarantee and delivery/ assembly date.

Step 3: Order Confirmation

Happy with the plan? Let's lock it in! A 20% deposit secures your Shed and confirms your delivery date.

Step 4: Manufacturing and Preparation

Our team gets to work crafting your Shed with the precision and care we're known for. Meanwhile, we'll keep you updated and make sure everything is set for delivery day.

Delivery & Installation

Delivery Day:

When the big day arrives, our team will deliver your Shed in sectional panels and carry them to the site. This is why access and base preparation are so important - everything has to be ready for a smooth installation.

Build Time:

Most single-skinned Sheds are assembled in just a couple of hours. We'll ensure everything is sturdy, level, and finished to perfection.

Aftercare

Your Shed is built to last, but **a little TLC** will keep it looking and performing its best for years to come:

Cladding Maintenance:
To protect your Shed, reapply Sadolin every 5–7 years. This keeps the wood looking beautiful and prevents it from drying out.

Ventilation:
Let your Shed breathe! Proper airflow prevents condensation and keeps everything inside in top condition.

Cleaning & Maintenance:
Keep your Shed clean and check for any wear around the base or roof. Catching small issues early can save time and money later on.

Final Thoughts

Our single-skinned Sheds are available in Apex, Pent and Potting Shed designs. If you need any help or guidance on picking the one that suits you, that's exactly what we're here for. Come and have a look at our Show Area examples and talk to our Team to learn more.

With over 35 years of Shed expertise, we're here to guide you every step of the way.

Let's make your Shed dreams a reality.

BOOK YOUR NO-OBLIGATION CONSULTATION

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