

How would you build a platform using pressure treated wood for an assembled shed that measures 15' x 8'. This shed will be built on asphalt. Show a step by step build plan with images and diagrams and a list of all of the parts needed to build the platform. At the end show the finished product.

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Here is a step-by-step build plan for a 15' x 8' pressure-treated wood platform, specifically designed to sit flat on an existing asphalt surface.

Parts and Materials List

To build this 15' x 8' platform, you will need the following materials. All lumber must be rated for Ground Contact (GC) Pressure Treated (PT) performance.

Lumber:

(Qty 10) 2x6 x 16' PT Lumber (for the main 15' beams/rim joists)

(Qty 14) 2x6 x 8' PT Lumber (for the 8' joists and blocking)

(Qty 16) 4x4 x 8' PT Lumber (for the sleeper skids)

Decking:

(Qty 4) 4' x 8' x 3/4" Ground Contact Rated PT Plywood (Standard sheathing)

Hardware & Fasteners:

(Qty 1) 5lb box of 3" Deck Screws (ACQ compatible, for framing)

(Qty 1) 5lb box of 2" Deck Screws (ACQ compatible, for plywood)

(Optional) (Qty 20) 2x6 Face-Mount Joist Hangers (recommended for added strength)

Tools: Miter saw, circular saw, drill/driver, level, hand tamper, laser level (optional).

The Step-by-Step Build Plan

Step 1: Site Preparation and Sleeper Layout

A platform on asphalt must allow for drainage and cannot trap water, which leads to rot. We will use 4x4 'sleepers' (skids) that run perpendicular to the main joists. This lifts the frame slightly.

First, verify the 15' x 8' area on the asphalt is relatively level. Mark the footprint. Next, place four 4x4 x 16' sleeper skids (cut exactly to 15') parallel to each other. Space them evenly, roughly 32 inches apart on center (O.C.).

Since asphalt is rarely perfectly flat, use thin PT wood shims (cut from scraps) to level these 4x4 beams now. Small deviations are okay, but the skids must be level relative to each other before the frame is built.

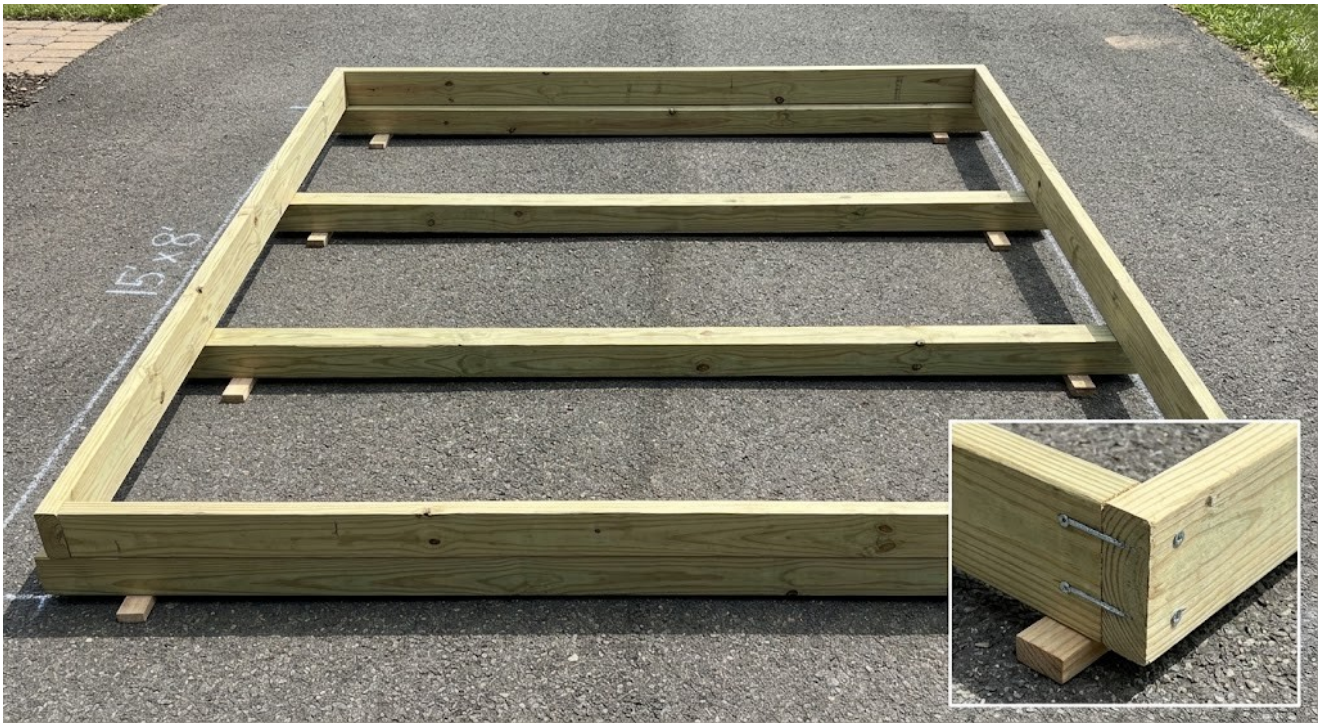


Step 2: Assemble the Outer Perimeter Frame

The 15' x 8' outer box is constructed using 2x6 pressure-treated lumber.

Cut two 2x6s to exactly 15' (these are your rim joists). Cut two 2x6s to 7' 9" (these are your header joists). Assemble the rectangle on top of the 4x4 sleepers, ensuring the header joists sit inside the 15' rim joists. Secure the corners using 3" deck screws (three per connection).

Once the rectangle is formed, measure diagonally from corner to corner. The two diagonal measurements must be equal (approx. 17' 11-1/2"). Adjust the frame until the diagonals match perfectly. This square frame must now sit flush on the level 4x4 sleepers established in Step 1.



Step 3: Install Inner Joists and Blocking

With the squared perimeter frame resting on the leveled 4x4 sleepers, it's time to fill the frame with 2x6 floor joists.

Cut 12 internal joists (2x6) to 7' 9" (matching the headers). Install these joists 16 inches On Center (O.C.). This means the center of the first inner joist is exactly 16" from the outside edge of the 15' rim joist.

You can secure the joists by driving three 3" screws through the outer 15' rim joists into the end of each internal joist. For a stronger connection that resists heavy shed loads, use 2x6 face-mount joist hangers and structure screws/nails.

Finally, install a row of 'blocking' down the center of the frame. These 14-1/2" 2x6 blocks add significant rigidity and prevent the joists from twisting.



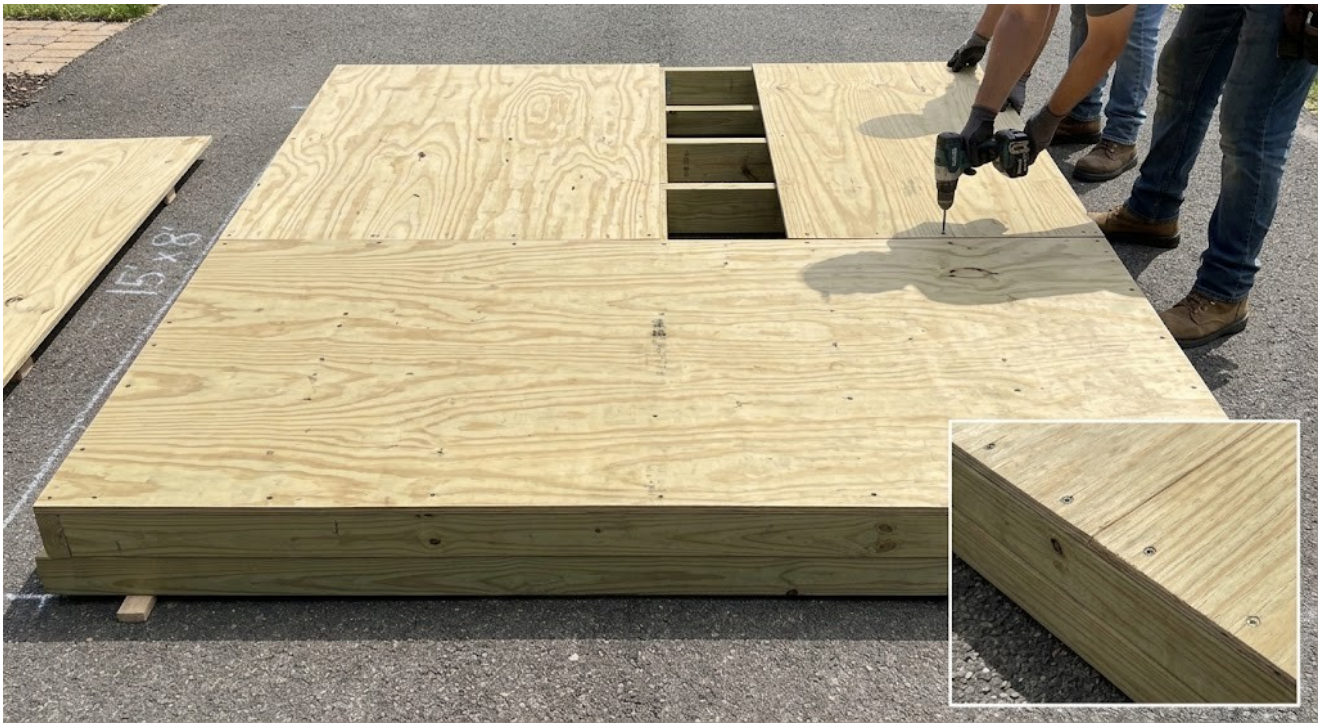
Step 4: Install Plywood Decking

The final step for the platform is the walking surface. We are using heavy 3/4" Ground Contact (GC) rated pressure-treated plywood. Standard plywood will rot prematurely in this application.

Apply a bead of subfloor adhesive (ensure it's rated for treated lumber) to the top of the joists and the center blocking. This prevents squeaks and adds shear strength.

Lay the 4'x8' plywood sheets perpendicular to the joists (running the 8' direction). Stagger the seams: the first row starts with a full 8' sheet; the second row must start with a sheet cut to 4' to offset the joints. Use 2" deck screws (or pneumatic framing nails) spaced every 6 inches along the edges and every 12 inches in the field (the center of the sheets).

The resulting 15' x 8' surface is now a complete, robust, and level foundation for your shed, elevated slightly above the asphalt.



The Finished Product

The result is a heavy-duty, 15' x 8' level foundation, built entirely from Ground Contact rated pressure-treated lumber. By referencing Image 0 and Image 3, you can see how the structure evolved from simple leveled skids to a robust, sheeted platform.

