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The Smart Buyers Official Guide To Buying A Garden Building

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TIMBER QUALITY

Don't Assume All Timber Is The Same

Not all garden buildings use the same timber, and that makes a big difference in how long your building will last and how well it performs in the UK climate.

All MCD garden buildings are handcrafted using pressure-treated Scandinavian timber, designed to resist rot, damp and general weathering. Pressure treatment forces the preservative deep into the wood, providing significantly better protection than surface-only treatments and helping timber withstand the challenges of British seasons.

What Makes MCD Timber Different?

Pressure treated for longevity – The timber is treated to protect against rot and decay, backed by a 10-year anti-rot guarantee.

Consistent quality and grading – Scandinavian timber is slow-grown and dense, reducing movement and splitting compared with many budget alternatives.

Strong, interlocking cladding – Cladding boards are sized and planed for a tight, secure fit that adds structural stability and weather resistance.

Solid framing throughout – A heavy-duty structural framework delivers stability and strength, especially important for larger buildings or those expected to support shelves, storage, or equipment.

Breathable membranes – Internal breathable membranes help reduce internal condensation and keep moisture moving away from timber, prolonging life and reducing warp.

Why It Matters

Timber that is untreated, poorly treated, or of inconsistent grade:

- Moves and warps more with changes in moisture
- Is more prone to splitting, rot and decaying
- Can lead to sticking doors, uneven walls and shorter lifespan

Pressure-treated Scandinavian timber significantly improves resistance to these problems and gives you confidence that the structure will remain stable and usable for years.





BASE REQUIREMENTS

The Foundation of Your Garden Building

A garden building is only as good as the base it stands on. An uneven or unstable base is one of the most common causes of issues in timber buildings installed on DIY or unsuitable foundations. Problems such as sticking doors, structural movement and water ingress often stem from poor base preparation. Getting this right from the outset protects your investment.

Your Base Must Be:

Level – Completely flat across the full footprint.

Solid & Load-Bearing – Strong enough to prevent sinking or shifting over time.

Suitable Base Options

- Properly prepared concrete slab
- Correctly laid paving slabs on a solid sub-base
- The MCD Timber EZ Base

Can I Install Directly Onto Grass or Soil? No.

Installing onto grass or soil will cause sinking, movement and moisture issues. A solid, level base is essential for both performance and warranty protection.

If Your Base Isn't Level

You have two options:

1. Correct it yourself or employ a builder

This can be time-consuming and potentially costly depending on the work required.

2. Add an MCD Timber EZ Base

The MCD Timber EZ Base

Designed specifically for MCD garden buildings, the EZ Base provides a reliable, level foundation for uneven, soft or gently sloped ground.

Key benefits:

- Precision-built to match your chosen building
- Pressure-treated Scandinavian timber
- Raised design improves airflow beneath the building
- Often cleaner and more cost-effective than concrete
- Suitable for height differences up to 30cm
- Works on both soft ground and hardstanding

Installed at the same time as your building, our team ensures it is level, square and securely fixed. Important. The MCD EZ Base is only available with an MCD garden building and cannot be supplied separately.

In some circumstances, a timber base may not be suitable. Please contact us with measurements and photos before ordering so we can advise correctly. If the base is not level and suitable for installation, adjustments may not be possible, and delays or additional charges can occur.

PRICE OVER SPECIFICATION

Buy Cheap, Buy Twice

When comparing garden buildings, it's natural to look at the bottom line first. However, the cheapest quote is rarely the best value long term.

Two buildings may look similar in photos, yet differ significantly in:

- Timber thickness
- Framing size
- Floor and roof construction
- Roof covering quality
- Level of treatment
- Installation standards
- Aftercare support
- Warranty

Lower prices are often achieved by reducing material thickness, using lighter framing, basic felt roofing or excluding elements that may appear optional but are essential for durability.

Over time, this can lead to:

- Roof failure
- Structural movement
- Premature wear
- Increased maintenance
- Replacement costs far sooner than expected

A garden building should last many years. Saving a few hundred pounds at the point of purchase can cost far more in repairs or replacement later. Always compare written specifications line by line and not just the total price. If one quote is significantly lower than others, ask why.

When compared on a true like-for-like specification basis, we believe our pricing is the most competitive in the market. Many lower quotes reduce material thickness, structural strength or roofing quality to appear cheaper. We do not compromise on core construction standards. We price honestly for the quality we deliver.





WARRANTY

Not Understanding What's Actually Covered

A warranty is only valuable if you understand what it includes and what it doesn't. Many buyers see "10-year guarantee" and assume everything is covered. In reality, most garden building warranties are specific and conditional.

What to Clarify Before You Buy

Always ask:

- Is the warranty anti-rot only?
- Does it cover structural movement?
- Is installation included?
- What maintenance is required to keep it valid?
- What situations would void the warranty?

Maintenance Responsibilities

Timber is a natural product and requires care. Most warranties require:

- Exterior treatment within a specified timeframe
- Ongoing re-treatment at intervals
- Correct base preparation
- Proper ventilation

Failure to meet these requirements can invalidate cover.

What MCD Provides

- **10-year anti-rot guarantee**
- **Metal roof lifetime guarantee**
- **1 Year workmanship guarantee**

At MCD Garden Buildings, we believe a warranty should reflect the quality of the product and give customers genuine peace of mind.

10-Year Anti-Rot Guarantee

Crafted from pressure-treated timber, your building is protected against rot, fungal decay, and insect attack for 10 years, giving you complete peace of mind.

1-Year Workmanship Guarantee

Every building is professionally fitted by our skilled in-house team. If any issues arise from our construction or installation within the first 12 months, we'll put it right.

Steel Roof Guarantee

Our premium steel roofs are built to last. We guarantee they'll remain leak-free and fully protective for the entire lifespan of your garden building.

Why It Matters

A clear, transparent warranty gives you confidence. A vague one can lead to disappointment. Before placing an order, make sure you understand exactly what protection you are receiving and what your responsibilities as the owner are.

ACCESS REQUIREMENTS

Planning Properly

Before ordering your garden building, it's important to consider how it will reach its final position. Access is often overlooked and can cause delays or additional costs if not assessed properly in advance.

What To Check Before Ordering

Please consider:

- Gate width
- Narrow passageways
- Steps or level changes
- Sloped gardens
- Low fences or walls
- Overhead obstructions (pipes, cables, branches)
- Parking proximity for unloading

Even if the base is suitable, restricted access can prevent safe installation.

How Installation Works

Our buildings are delivered in sections and assembled on site. While this allows us to overcome many access challenges, there are limits depending on space and safety. Most access issues can be managed with planning, but we need accurate information before installation day.

What We Recommend

If access is tight or unusual:

- Measure the narrowest point from the front access to the base
- Take clear photos of the full route
- Inform us of any steps or height differences

Providing this information early allows us to plan correctly and avoid delays.

Important

If access is significantly restricted and not disclosed in advance, installation may need to be rescheduled, and additional charges could apply. Clear communication ensures a smooth installation and protects everyone's time.

Send Us a Video

To make this easier, we have a dedicated WhatsApp line where customers can send photos or short videos of their access route. This allows us to assess the situation quickly and advise in real time, helping avoid surprises on installation day. If you are unsure, we strongly recommend sending a video before placing your order.



WhatsApp



QUESTIONS TO ASK

Before placing an order, it's important to understand exactly what you are buying. A reputable company should be able to answer these questions clearly and confidently.

Construction & Materials

- What thickness is the cladding?
- What size is the internal framing?
- Is the timber pressure-treated or dip-treated?
- What type of roof materials are used?
- What flooring specification is included?

Roof Specification

- What roof covering is included as standard?
- Is it felt or steel?
- What guarantee applies to the roof?

Base & Installation

- What type of base is required?
- Is installation included in the price?
- What happens if access is restricted?
- How long does installation typically take?

Warranty & Aftercare

- What does the warranty actually cover?
- Is it anti-rot only?
- What maintenance is required to keep it valid?
- What would void the warranty?

Lead Times & Support

- What is the realistic production lead time?
- Is the building made to order?
- Who do I contact if I have a question after installation?

A quality garden building should be supported by clear answers, written specifications and transparent guarantees. If a company cannot explain their construction standards confidently, it's worth asking why.

Our Approach to Customer Service

At MCD Garden Buildings, we believe customer service should match the quality of the product. From your first enquiry through to installation and aftercare, our team is available to answer questions clearly and honestly. We understand that purchasing a garden building is an investment, and you should feel confident at every stage. We welcome detailed questions about our construction, materials, warranty and service standards. In fact, we encourage them.

ROOF CONSTRUCTION

The Most Overlooked Detail

The roof endures the harshest conditions of any part of a garden building. Wind, driving rain, frost, heat and UV exposure all impact the roof first. Yet when comparing buildings, it's often the least examined area.

What to Compare

When reviewing the roof specification, consider:

- The type and thickness of the roof boards
- The structural roof framework
- The covering material
- Water runoff design and overhang
- Long-term durability in UK weather

Steel roofs offer superior protection against the elements, are significantly more durable than traditional felt systems and require minimal maintenance. In fact, we are confident enough in our steel box profile roof system to provide a lifetime guarantee on the roof for the life of the shed.

Why We Use Steel Box Profile Roofing

Steel box profile roofing offers significant advantages:

- Extremely durable and weather-resistant
- Designed to shed water efficiently
- Resistant to tearing, lifting or blistering
- Long lifespan compared to traditional felt
- Minimal ongoing maintenance

Unlike felt, which can degrade with prolonged UV exposure and temperature changes, steel roofing provides a robust protective layer built to withstand British weather year after year. It is one of the key structural upgrades that sets a premium garden building apart.

Why This Is Important

Roof failure is one of the most expensive issues to repair. The roof protects everything beneath it. It should never be an afterthought. Choosing a strong roof structure with a durable covering from the outset reduces the risk of:

- Leaks
- Sagging
- Water damage
- Early replacement





RED FLAGS

Not all garden building suppliers operate to the same standards. While there are many reputable companies in the market, there are also warning signs buyers should be aware of.

Significantly Lower Prices With No Clear Explanation

If one quote is substantially cheaper than others, compare the specification carefully.

Lower pricing is often achieved by reducing:

- Timber thickness
- Framing strength
- Roof construction
- Treatment quality
- Installation standards

No Written Specification

If you cannot see exact material sizes, roof details and structural information in writing, ask for it.

A professional supplier should be transparent about construction standards.

Vague Warranty Terms

Be cautious if:

- The warranty is not clearly explained
- Maintenance requirements are unclear
- Only verbal assurances are given

A proper warranty should be documented and easy to understand.

No Trading Address or Showroom

A permanent trading address and established presence offer reassurance. Garden buildings are long-term purchases. You want a company that will still be operating and contactable years from now.

Poor or Inconsistent Reviews

Check multiple platforms, not just one.

Look for patterns in feedback relating to:

- Installation quality
- Aftercare support
- Communication
- How issues are resolved

Pressure Selling or “Today Only” Pricing

Reputable companies allow customers time to consider their purchase.

Be cautious of high-pressure tactics designed to rush decision-making.

Final Thought

A garden building should last many years. Take time to compare properly, ask detailed questions and choose a supplier who is transparent about materials, warranty and service. Quality, communication and long-term support matter just as much as price.

LEAD TIMES

Underestimating Production

A garden building is not an off-the-shelf product. Quality buildings are made to order, and production takes time. Many buyers underestimate how long a properly constructed garden building can take, particularly during peak seasons.

Why Lead Times Vary

Lead times can be affected by:

- Seasonal demand (spring and summer are especially busy)
- Building size and customisation
- Production schedules
- Weather conditions
- Installation logistics

Made to Order vs Mass Produced

Mass-produced buildings may be available quickly, but often at the expense of material quality and structural strength. The delivery and installation of mass-produced buildings usually requires the customer to employ somebody to build it or build it themselves.

Made-to-order buildings allow for:

- Stronger construction
- Custom sizing and layouts
- Higher-grade materials
- More precise installation

This process naturally requires more time.

What to Expect

Before ordering, always ask for a realistic production and installation timeframe. A reputable company will give you an honest estimate without promising a timeframe that isn't achievable and will keep you informed throughout the process. Rushing production can compromise quality, and that is rarely worth it.





MAINTENANCE

No shed is truly maintenance-free, regardless of construction.

Some are lower-maintenance than others, but nothing outdoors is zero-maintenance in the long term. There's no such thing as a completely maintenance-free garden building. Still, we design and build ours to be as low-maintenance as possible using high-quality materials and proper treatment.

Here's the honest breakdown:

Timber Sheds

Maintenance level: Moderate

- Need periodic treatment (usually every 1–3 years depending on exposure)
- Roof felt may need replacing over time
- Moving parts (hinges, locks) need occasional care

Well-built pressure-treated timber can last decades, but it still needs looking after.

Metal Sheds

Maintenance level: Low

- No painting required
- Can suffer from condensation
- Risk of corrosion if the coating is damaged
- Fixings may loosen over time

They're lower maintenance, not maintenance-free.

Plastic / Resin Sheds

Maintenance level: Low

- Won't rot or rust
- Can become brittle over many years
- May fade or warp
- Hinges and fixings still require attention

Again, low maintenance, not zero.

Composite Buildings

Maintenance level: Low–Moderate

- Cladding may be low maintenance
- Structure, roof coverings, and seals still age
- Still exposed to UV, wind, and moisture

The Reality

Anything outdoors in the UK climate will be affected by:

- UV exposure
- Moisture
- Temperature changes
- Wind movement
- General wear and tear

Even brick garages need roof and gutter maintenance.