

## Shed Evolution

How is it possible to add more space to a home without the mess, noise and big expense? Start by looking to the garden – the garden shed, that is.

For some homeowners, an unused shed holds the promise of a separate work office, a bath spa, or maybe an artist's studio. And for others, an unused garden shed is an excellent spot, well, for gardening.



The best way to determine what an unused shed has to offer is to clear out any existing clutter. Often, sheds become the repository for broken lawn equipment, old furniture and assorted small items. A shed can clean up very nicely and present a host of opportunities.



Most sheds have walls, a door and a roof, but sometimes little else. To ensure that a shed can stand up to a variety of weather conditions, it may be best to add insulation. An electrical system is needed to power lights, computer, radio, fan and other needs. Piping for electrical wires may need to be installed. The next step is installing, taping and painting drywall. Depending on the desired use for the shed, a water source might be necessary as well, probably requiring the services of a licensed plumber.

To access available light, an existing door can be replaced by a framed glass door. One ambitious remodeler wanted as much natural light as possible and replaced an entire wall with one made out of glass.

But what about life in a shed? At the Modern-Shed website, you can purchase an outdoor shed that can accomplish a variety of purposes, including use as a permanent shelter.

Modern-Shed sells sheds in kits that are shipped and assembled on site. There are five different styles that range from a basic model to a much more elaborate and luxurious one. Each style can be configured or customized differently. For example, the Garden Shed is eight feet by ten feet and starts out at approximately \$5000. The 10 x 12 foot Studio starts at \$13,000. The Dwelling, a 14 x 30 foot model begins at under \$50,000. And any Modern Shed can be disassembled and taken along to the next back yard.



Photo courtesy of Modern-Shed  
[www.modern-shed.com](http://www.modern-shed.com)

Ecospace Sheds are another option, available in modular form, built from sustainable material and causes minimal site disturbance. They feature a planted green roof system which provides a cooler interior as well as a pleasing aesthetic experience.

MetroShed provides do-it-yourself backyard sheds that, according to company literature, can be assembled in less than a day using only a screw gun, ladder and gloves. Components include cedar framing, insulated wall panels, aluminum sliding glass doors, ventilation shutters with screens and wood floor panels.

For newly installed sheds, most municipalities allow a garden storage shed of up to 120 sq. ft. It's always best to check with local building departments regarding code and permit requirements.