



How to add a green roof to your shed

SKILL LEVEL: ■■■■■

TIME OF YEAR: MARCH-SEPTEMBER

WILDLIFE-FRIENDLY: Living roofs increase the planting area in your garden and provide extra wildlife habitat.

CLIMATE-FRIENDLY: Living roofs absorb rainwater and can help to stabilise the temperature of a building.

WHERE TO BUY MATERIALS: A good independent garden centre (try to shop locally where possible).

GARDEN FOR A LIVING LONDON

As our climate changes, gardens are becoming even more vital to wildlife and people.

They can provide shade, absorb carbon, soak up flood water and help to cool buildings. A well managed network of gardens stretching across the capital would also help wildlife to move more freely and adapt to climate change.

London Wildlife Trust's 'Garden for a Living London' campaign is asking Londoners to do one thing to create a wildlife and climate friendly garden. This 'How to' guide shows how to add a green roof to your shed. Follow the simple tips and get your garden working to help our city and its wildlife cope with climate change.

For more information on our campaign and to pledge your support visit www.wildlondon.org.uk/gardening

Before you start

Is your roof strong enough? You may need to strengthen it with timber braces. If in doubt, get professional advice. Also check that your roof is waterproof.

Preparing your living roof

1. Make a wooden frame to fit over your shed roof. It needs to be 20-30cm deep to take liners, soil and plants. Ensure there is a gap between the edge of the frame and the shed roof to allow free drainage of water.
2. Line the frame with a water-proof sheet, such as a butyl pond liner.
3. On top of the sheet, add a moisture-blanket made from woolly fleece, old towels or blankets.
4. Finish with a filter sheet (like sheets used under patios to keep weeds out). This holds fine soils but allows water to pass through.
5. For large or sloping roofs, add batons across the frame to hold the liners in place.
6. Add a 4cm layer of expanded clay granules on top of the liners. This is a lightweight substrate in which your plants will grow.
7. Finish with a 4cm layer of top soil (70%) and sand (30%).

Planting your living roof

Leave it to nature You can let plants colonise your roof from seeds blown by wind or dropped by wildlife.

Sedums and stonecrops These plants are very drought resistant and their flowers often attract bees, butterflies and other insects.

Grasses and wildflowers Plants of a species-rich grassland provide nectar for insects, seeds for birds and stalks for insects to shelter in winter. You'll need a well-draining low-fertility soil. Sow seeds or plant small plugs and water until established.

Extra features Consider adding shingle, crushed shell, sand and / or gravel areas to benefit insects, such as solitary bees and wasps.

More advice www.livingroofs.org

Supported by



GARDEN
FOR A
LIVING
LONDON

Help transform the capital's 3 million gardens into a network of nature reserves
www.wildlondon.org.uk/gardening

