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"I Love My Low-Cost Storage Building"

"You can't beat this method for putting up a cheap storage building," says Butch Soehnlen, Beach City, Ohio, who bought two shipping containers, parked them about 20 ft. apart, and built a roof over the space between them.

"Right now there are a lot of spare shipping containers on the market because more goods are being imported into this country than are going out. That means many of the containers make a one-way trip here and it's cheaper to sell them than to ship them back empty. If you shop around, you can buy 20 or 40-ft. units for \$1,800 to \$2,000, depending on the condition.

"We set the containers on railroad ties. The trick is to get them both square and level with each other. Then we welded steel tabs to the top edge and bolted 4 by 4's to them. This gives you a sill to attach rafters and a back wall. If you use two 40-ft. containers and leave 20 ft. between them, you'll have a



To make a cheap storage building, Butch Soehnlen bought 2 shipping containers, parked them about 20 ft. apart, and built a roof over the space between them.

very large and inexpensive space for storage. The containers are well-built and dry inside. They can be sealed and locked so we store all kinds of stuff in there."

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