



Children's playhouse and swing set



Tables and benches

“Forklift Furniture”, Art Made From Pallets

By Dee Goerge, Contributing Editor

Since talking to Lori Danelle Wilson about the children's beds she made out of pallets (FARM SHOW Vol. 36, No. 4), readers have pointed us to other uses for pallets.

My favorites are the simple ones, like putting casters or legs on pallets to create tables and sofas for indoors or outdoors. Or, setting a pallet upright to hold dirt for a vertical garden or a shelf to hold books, photos or even dishes.

More skilled craftsmen we found online make everything from floors and walls to kitchen cabinets.

Pallets are often available for free from businesses, distributors and recycling centers. Look for pallets that were heat-treated (not chemically treated), and avoid pallets used to load chemicals or that have been outside a long time and may have mold.



Outdoor table



Vertical garden



Big ball

How One Reader Built A Pallet Shed

Inspired by other FARM SHOW readers, Dave Mathia built an 8 by 12-ft. shed mostly out of pallets and other recycled materials. His total cost was less than \$100.

He used 47 pallets as well as siding and OSB from salvage jobs.

It was enough to “alarm the neighbors.” Local officers stopped in to see what he was up to in his Medicine Hat, Alta., neighborhood, which has strict regulations about building sheds no more than 107 sq. ft. size. Since it's built on skids he was not required to have a building permit.

“We had to make our plan fit the guidelines for ‘shed protocol,’” Mathia says.

He made the deck two pallets wide by three pallets long with 2 by 4's around the perimeter and down the center lengthwise. He screwed 2 1/2 sheets of OSB on the pallets for the floor. End walls had two rows of two pallets, and side walls had two rows of three pallets.

“I put the pallets with the slats horizontal and the 2 by 4's vertical, which is opposite to what I've seen on the internet. It seemed more logical to me, and is similar to house framing,” Mathia says. It provides good side strength, he adds – along with plenty of 4-in. and longer screws.

For the roof, he ran 10-ft. 2 by 4's from the front to the back with an 8-in. drop at the back for a 1/12 pitch. He topped it with 12 pallets, upside down for more places to screw down the roof. Each truss is held down with three screws on each end and a supporting cross member along the walls under the trusses.

The roof has 18-in. eaves and small overhangs on the front and back. If he were

to do it again, he would have used 12-ft. 2 by 4's for a bigger overhang.

Mathia removed slats off one corner for a 42-in. wide door and built a door out of 8-in. wide wood from some of the nicest pallets. He used nice looking thin slats from newspaper flyer pallets for the soffit and fascia.

“Inside I placed two shelves of pallets two wide and one in the front corner for my vice and drill press. These also help with the rigid strength of the building,” Mathia says. “The siding and roofing material is the basic 9/36 ribbed metal, and also acts as a stabilizer.” Though the pallet shed was cheap, it took about twice as much time to build.

“The pallets often don't match exactly in size, and it just takes extra work to assemble,” he says. “But it's about saving money. And doing it this way gave me the feeling that I outwitted the system, like winning a prize.”

He can make it bigger than the regulated size by building a second smaller shed nearby.

“They can face each other – they aren't allowed to touch – and when the doors are open, they close the space between them, and I can have an extra work area,” Mathia explains. “I can have the open doors lock into the walls of the facing shed, and thereby both sheds will be locked whether the doors are open or closed.”

For photos and building details, check out his website.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dave Mathia (davemathia@yahoo.ca; www.palletshed.blogspot.com).



Dave Mathia built an 8 by 12-ft. shed (shown here under construction) mostly out of pallets and other recycled materials. His total cost was less than \$100.



He made the shed 2 pallets wide by 3 pallets long, with 2 by 4's around the perimeter and lengthwise down the center.