

HOW TO BUILD SHELVES: 5 TYPES OF SHELVES EASY TO BUILD



There are times when the space is tight in the house, and all you need is some extra storage for your things. Most people would get creative and use what they have; sliding cupboards, magazine holders, or using spaces under the beds. However, using shelves is a great way to create more storage space and organize your home to look clean and tidy.

While building shelves can seem complicated, it's not always the case. What you need is the right tools and a bit of time and patience to build a strong shelf that can hold anything. This article will guide you on ways to build various types of shelves fit for your home.

Essential tools and materials you would need

- Shelving boards.
- Shelf supports including wood or metal strips, and brackets.
- Drills and screwdrivers.
- Screws of fitting lengths.
- Miscellaneous items, such as pens, levels, glue and measuring tapes.

With the right collection of tools and materials, you can now easily build your shelves in a few quick steps. Before building your shelf, you have to determine which type fits your taste. Other things to consider are the type of space you want to install your shelf on and the style that pleases you.

1. Wall shelves

Wall shelves make every space useful by extending vertical storage on walls. Typical wall shelves usually have shelving boards supported by firm brackets attached to studs using screws. Fixing wall shelves requires knowing what type of items you'd put on them to get the ideal screws and brackets that fit perfectly.

Here's how you build a wall shelf:

- Locate the wall studs you'd fix the brackets on. Wall studs are the wooden frames fixed behind the walls, usually hidden from sight and provide extra support to the house. Once you locate it, hold the bracket against it for dry fitting.
- Once you get the right height and dry-fitting the bracket, mark the screw holes using a pen.
- Using a drill, make some pilot holes on the marks you made. Afterward, fit the bracket in position and drive in the screws deep inside the stud.
- Repeat the above steps on the second stud you'd use to fix the second bracket. You can use the level or a digital equivalent to get a fitting height for the shelf not to appear slanted.
- Install the shelving board by fixing it on the support brackets using short screws. Once you're done with the screwing, you're ready to use your shelf.

2. Floating shelves

Floating shelves appear the same as wall shelves, but they don't rely on visible brackets for support. Instead, it uses cleats that are usually hidden but still hold on firmly. If you're looking for a more stylish shelving design or making them appealing to your visitors, this type of shelves is an ideal fit for you.

The two main steps involved in making floating shelves include:

Assembling the shelf

- Using a saw, cut the shelving board to your preferred length. Ensure that the two cut pieces are of the same size and length.
- Cut the spacers to the ideal length. Spacers are the wooden pieces you'd use to attach the shelving boards on their top and bottom sides.
- Once you cut them to size, prepare to nail them together by applying glue on the contact surfaces. Using a screwdriver, secure the spacers together.
- Put the shelf parts together by sandwiching the spacers between the two shelving boards. You can apply glue before driving in screws to assemble the shelf firmly. Once you're done with the shelf, prepare the cleat.

Making the cleat

- Cut the cleat pieces using a saw; three short pieces and one long piece.

- Dry fit the cut pieces to form an E shape and make pilot holes. Apply glue on the contact surfaces and drill the pieces together.
- Mount the cleat on the wall using the screwdriver and some ideal-size screws to hold firmly. If possible, locate the walls studs and firmly fit the cleat by fixing it with strong screws.
- Slide the shelf box on the cleat and start using your floating shelf.

3. Free-standing shelves

Free-standing shelves are often portable and use their base as support instead of the walls. The shelves usually pile on each other until they reach an ideal storage height. The biggest advantage with these shelves is that they can be used anywhere since they are movable.

Here's how you make a free-standing shelf:

- Prepare the base by assembling the two separate cleats. Ensure that the cleat pieces are of similar height before nailing them together.
- When the cleats are ready, get them standing and place the shelving board on top. Ensure that the standing cleats touch the shelving board's edges.
- Screw the shelving board against the base cleats to hold firmly. You can also apply some glue to make the attachment stronger.
- Attach the other four cleat pieces on the shelving board edges and nail or screw them to fix them in position. Attach the next shelving board and nail it down as well.

- Repeat the above step for the other shelving boards until you reach your desired height. If you're interested in taller free-standing shelves, make the base wider for better support.
- At the very top, attach the final shelving board, or you can choose to leave it as it is.

4. Top hung shelves

Top hung shelves usually use the roof as support and require metal holders for better support. They aren't common in homes but can still be ideal for increasing the storage space. To make this type of shelf, you need at least two metal supports already been assembled, either by screws or welding. Afterward, installing them is pretty straightforward.

- Screw the two separate metal holders against the ceiling, probably on a wall-to-wall crossbar beyond the ceiling.
- Once you've firmly attached them, screw the shelving boards in position. Once you're done, you can start using the shelf for storage.

5. Corner shelves

Corner shelves usually utilize the spaces on the corner walls, but the basic approach used to make them is equally the same as that used in making wall shelves and floating shelves. The only difference is that two different shelves join together at right angles. When making them, the design you can use depends on your taste, whether you want them to appear floating or you find it okay to use brackets for support.

Conclusion

Making shelves isn't challenging but only requires a bit of your time and following the correct procedure. Shelves in homes, schools, or work are ideal for expanding storage spaces and making a place look more organized. If you're planning on building a shelf at home, school, or work, be sure to have the right tools and follow the correct procedure for a solid and long-serving shelf.

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