Please retain product label and instructions for future reference



02DTTWR0605-V1-PEFC **6X5 PLAYHOUSE TOWER**



WARNING: Only for domestic use Not suitable for children under 36 months due to small gaps and danger of falling from heights. To be used under direct supervision of an adult

BEFORE YOU START PLEASE READ THE INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY

- Check the pack and make sure you have all the items listed in the parts list provided.
- When you are ready to start, make sure you have the right tools at hand (not supplied see the equipment list on next
- Ensure there is plenty of space and a clean dry area for assembly.
- Ensure you have enough time to build the product to ensure the building is water tight.

TIMBER

As with all natural materials, timber can be affected during various weather conditions. For the duration of heavy or extended periods of rain, swelling of the wood panels may occur. Warping of the wood may also occur during excessive dry spells due to natural processes. Unfortunately, these processes cannot be avoided but can be helped. It is suggested that the outdoor building is sprayed with water during extended periods of hot weather and sheltered as much as possible during rain or snow.

Once your garden building has been installed it will need to be treated within 14 days (weather permitting) and annually to prevent the timber from deteriorating and to waterproof it. This is required to maintain the anti-rot guarantee.

Dip Treated buildings - Require a preservative treatment to protect against rot and decay and a waterproof treatment to prevent water ingress.

POSITIONING YOUR PLAYHOUSE

When thinking about where the building and where the base is going to be constructed: Ensure that there will be access to all sides for maintenance work and annual treatment.

We recommend a minimum space of 2m around a playhouse, away from any structure or obstructions such as fences, garages, houses, overhanging branches, washing lines or electrical wires.

It is recommended that the position of the Playhouse is **not in direct sunlight.**

Activity toys such as swings and slides for towers shall not be installed over concrete, asphalt or any hard surface.

Whilst all products manufactured are made to the highest standards of safety and in the case of childrens products independently tested to EN71, we cannot accept responsibility for your safety whilst erecting this product.

BUILDING A BASE

Ensure the base is level and is built on firm ground, to prevent distortion, checking with a spirit level. Refer to diagrams for the base dimensions. The base should be slightly smaller than the external measurement of the building, i.e. The cladding should overlap the base, creating a run off for water. It is also recommended that the floor be at least 25mm above the surrounding ground level to avoid flooding.

TYPES OF BASE

- Concrete 75mm laid on top of 75mm hard-core.
- Slabs laid on 50mm of sharp sand.
- Wooden base.



WARNING

- ONLY SUITABLE FOR DOMESTIC USE.
- TO BE USED UNDER DIRECT SUPERVISION OF AN ADULT.
- THIS PRODUCT SHOULD NOT BE MODIFIED IN ANY WAY, ANY MODIFICATIONS SHOULD BE DETERMINED BY THE MANUFACTURER AND CARRIED OUT ACCORDING TO THE INSTRUCTIONS.
- DO NOT ALLOW YOUR CHILD TO PLAY WITH ANY COMPONENT PARTS PRIOR TO ASSEMBLY.
- MAX AGE OF 14 YEARS.
- THIS TOY IS FOR OUTDOOR USE ONLY.
- USE A WATER BASED TREATMENT THAT IS EN71 TESTED.

CAUTION

Wood is a natural product and can change post manufacture. So despite every effort being made to ensure the material used are cut and machined to a clean and smooth finish, care must be taken when handling the product and preparing for use by your child.

Any areas of concern, in the play areas, can be rubbed over with sandpaper to achieve a smoother finish. Alternatively, call the customer service department who will be happy to arrange replacement panels/parts.



All buildings should be erected by atleast two adults. DO NOT ALLOW CHILDREN TO ASSIST.



For ease of assembly, you will need a tape measure to check dimensions of components.



To prevent damage during assembly, you MUST pilot drill all screw holes and ensure all screw heads are countersunk.



Measure

under the

head

Winter = High Moisture = Expansion Summer = Low Moisture = Contraction

Screws & Nails

Measure overall length

To identify the fixings required for each step use a measuring tape.

Protim Aquatan T5 (621)

Your building has been dip treated with Aquatan.

Aguatan is a water-based concentrate which is diluted with water, the building has been treated by the correct application of Aguatan solution and then allowed to dry.

Aquatan is a decorative finish to colour the wood, which is applied industrially to timber fence panels and garden buildings.

Aquatan undiluted contains: boric acid, sodium hydroxide 32% solution, aqueos mixture of sodium dioctyl sulphosuccinat and alcohols: 2, 4, 6-trichlorophenol.

In all instances for assistance with your product, please contact customer care on: 01636 821215 or customerservice@merciagp.co.uk

Mercia Garden Products Limited, Sutton On Trent, Newark, Nottinghamshire, NG23 6QN





Look for the symbols and follow the safety guidlines below.



Ensure screw heads are subflush and sand down any splinters created.



50kg per user



Ensure the screws are fixed squarely and do not



12mm gap surrounding the door.

TO DO LIST

Build a base (see front cover for further information).

Check the base is flat, level, clear of debris and has 600mm clearance on all sides.

Check you have the required equipment.

Check you have all the product items listed (if you have missing or damaged parts please contact the customer services department, see front cover for contact details).

Install the product as per the step by step instructions within this pack.

Prepare the product ready for treatment.

Apply a preserving and a waterproofing treatment within 14 days (weather permitting) of installation.

Register for your anti-rot guarantee (scan the QR below).

Tidy the build area and dispose of any remaining parts responsibly.

Maintain your building (see the manufacturers recommendations at the back of this pack).





Hammer
Flat Head Screwdriver
Drill
Drill Bit Set
Phillips and Slotted Bit Sets
Tape Measure
Hand Saw
Spirit Level
Ladders/Steps
Stanley Knife/Cutting Tool
Sand Paper
Gloves
010100
Silicone (For Windows Only)
Silicone (For Windows Only)
Silicone (For Windows Only) Wood Filler (Optional)
Silicone (For Windows Only) Wood Filler (Optional) Timber Preservative Treatment

NEED EXTRA SUPPORT

If you are unsure that your base preparation will be suitable, please contact us on 01636 821215 to discuss this further.

Alternatively, you can visit our website or MGP Logistics Online Portal for some further sheducation.

Website:

https://www.merciagardenproducts.co.uk/sheducat

MGP Logistics Online Portal: https://www.mgplogistics.co.uk/

Here you will find plenty of useful information that'll help with most pre-installation and maintenance queries.



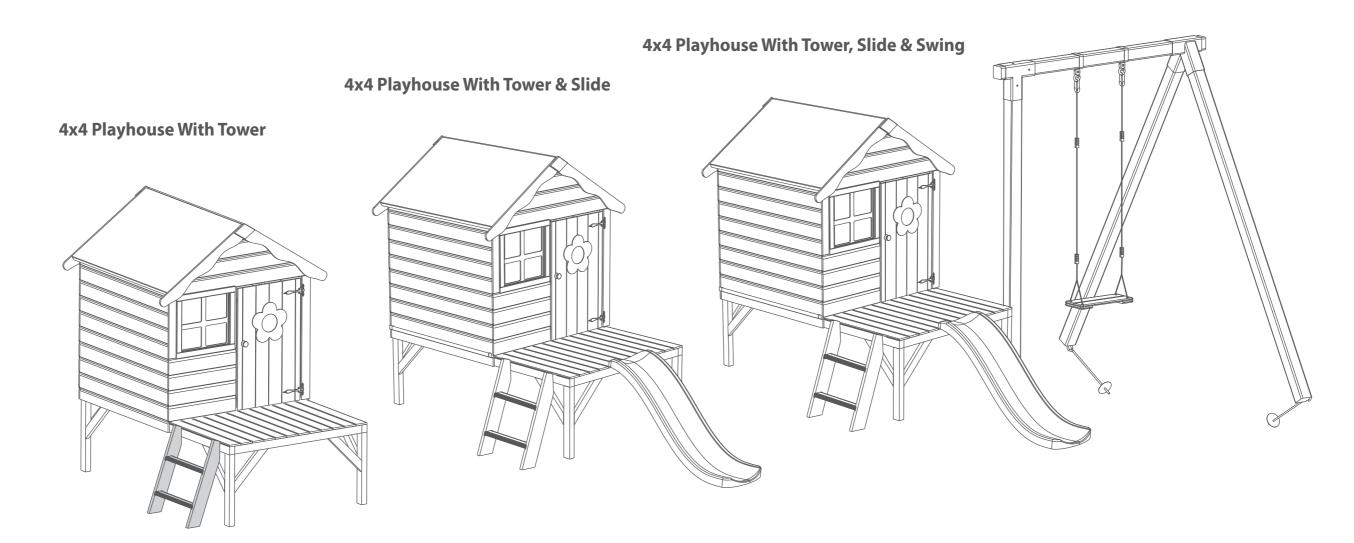
NOTES	



Playhouse Options:

Take a look at the different playhouse options below which refers to the instruction leaflets required to build each option.

Model	Build Instructions Required
4x4 Playhouse With Tower <i>SI-002-001-0043</i>	02DTSHAX0404BDH1W-V1-PEFC (<i>Playhouse</i>) 02DTTWR0605-V1-PEFC (<i>Tower</i>)
4x4 Playhouse With Tower & Slide <i>SI-002-001-0040</i>	02DTSHAX0404BDH1W-V1-PEFC (Playhouse) 02DTTWRS0605-V1-PEFC (Tower With Slide)
4x4 Playhouse With Tower, Slide & Swing SI-002-001-0100	02DTSHAX0404BDH1W-V1-PEFC (Playhouse) 02DTTWRS0605-V1-PEFC (Tower With Slide) 02PATINCSWA-V1-PEFC (Swing Set)

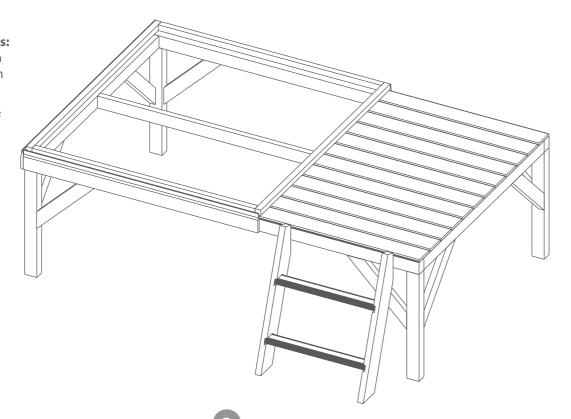






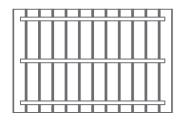
Overall Dimensions: Base Dimensions: Width = 1168mm Width = 1437mm Depth = 1870mm Depth = 1870mm Height = 621mm

* Measurements do not include slide & ladder *



Building Content:





Outer Floor QTY 1 AI-S11STISF1168X758-V1









Framing - 44x58x1080mm QTY 3 F4458-1080mm

Framing - 44x58x1044mm QTY 1

Leg Post - 44x58x523mm QTY 4

Leg Brace - 44x58x400mm QTY 8 F4458-G-440mm ANGLED

Floor Framing - 28x28x1162mm QTY 2

Floor Framing - 28x28x1057mm QTY 2 FS2828-1057mm

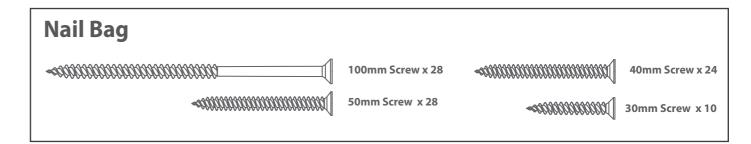
Shiplap Board - 12x92x1200mm QTY 1

Shiplap Board - 12x92x1112mm QTY 2

 \bigcap Ladder Side Left - 650mm QTY 1 PRO2795-650mm

U Ladder Side Right - 650mm QTY 1 PRO2795-650mm

Ladder Step - 27x58x476mm QTY 2



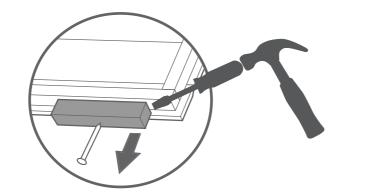


Pre Assembly

Before assembling remove the transportation blocks from the bottom of each panel.

Take care removing the blocks as to not damage the panels. Tap with a flat headed screwdriver and hammer.

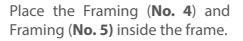
Dispose of the blocks once removed.



Step 2 Parts needed - 4 & 5







Make sure **No. 5** is positioned in the centre and use it as a guide for positioning No. 4 in the middle.

Fix together as shown with 1x100mm screw per end.

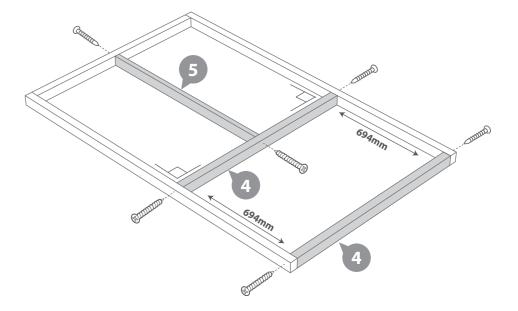
6x100mm screws











Step 1 Parts needed - 3 & 4

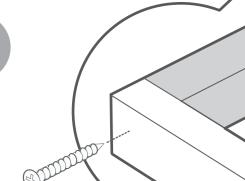




Place the Framing (No. 3) and Framing (No. 4) as shown, ensuring the ends are flush.

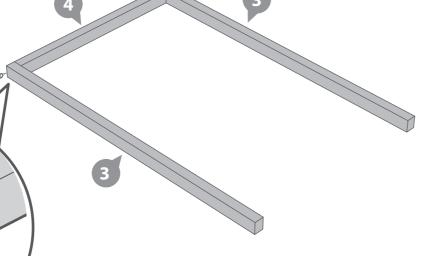
Fix the framing together by screwing through the side of the framing to the end of the framing below using 1x100mm screw per end, as shown in the illustration.



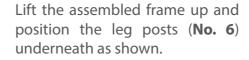








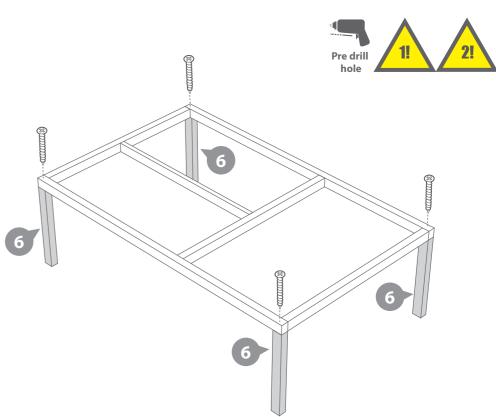
Step 3 Parts needed - 6



Fix the leg posts to the frame by screwing through the framing into the leg post, using 1x100mm screw per leg post.

4x100mm screws







Step 4 Parts needed - 7

Fix the Leg Braces (No. 7) to either side of each leg post by screwing through the framing into the leg brace, and up through the leg post into the leg brace, using 2x100mm screws per brace.

Ensure the framing is level so that the corners and legs are square and flush.

16x100mm screws



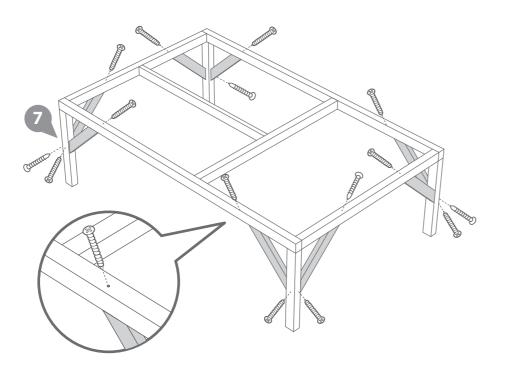


Place the Outer Floor (No. 1) on top of the framing and make sure that the edge of the floor is flush with the end of the platform. Fix into position by screwing through the floor into the framing below, using 10x40mm screws.

10x40mm screws







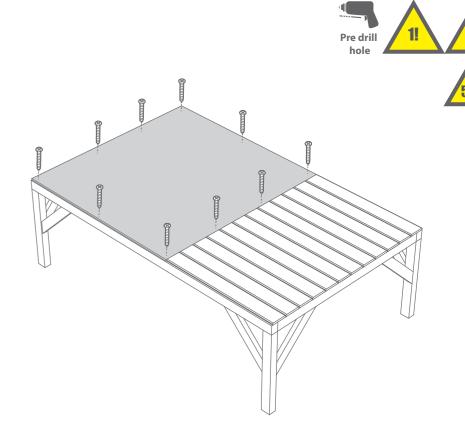
Step 6 Parts needed - Refer to playhouse

Take out the solid OSB floor sheet that is supplied with the playhouse.

Place the floor sheet on top of the framing platform and secure into position using the 10x30mm screws.

10x30mm screws





Step 7 Parts needed - 8 & 9







Place the Floor Framing (No. 8 & No. 9) on top of the floor sheet and locate around the edge as shown, ensuring each piece is flush to the edge of the floor sheet.

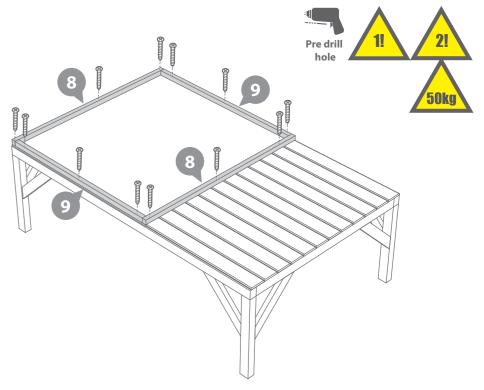
Fix each piece into place with 3x50mm screws per frame.

12x50mm screws



**Check the ridigity of the parts and tighten and adjust where necessary.

You can then proceed to building the playhouse.





Step 8

The playhouse can now be assembled on top of the framing.

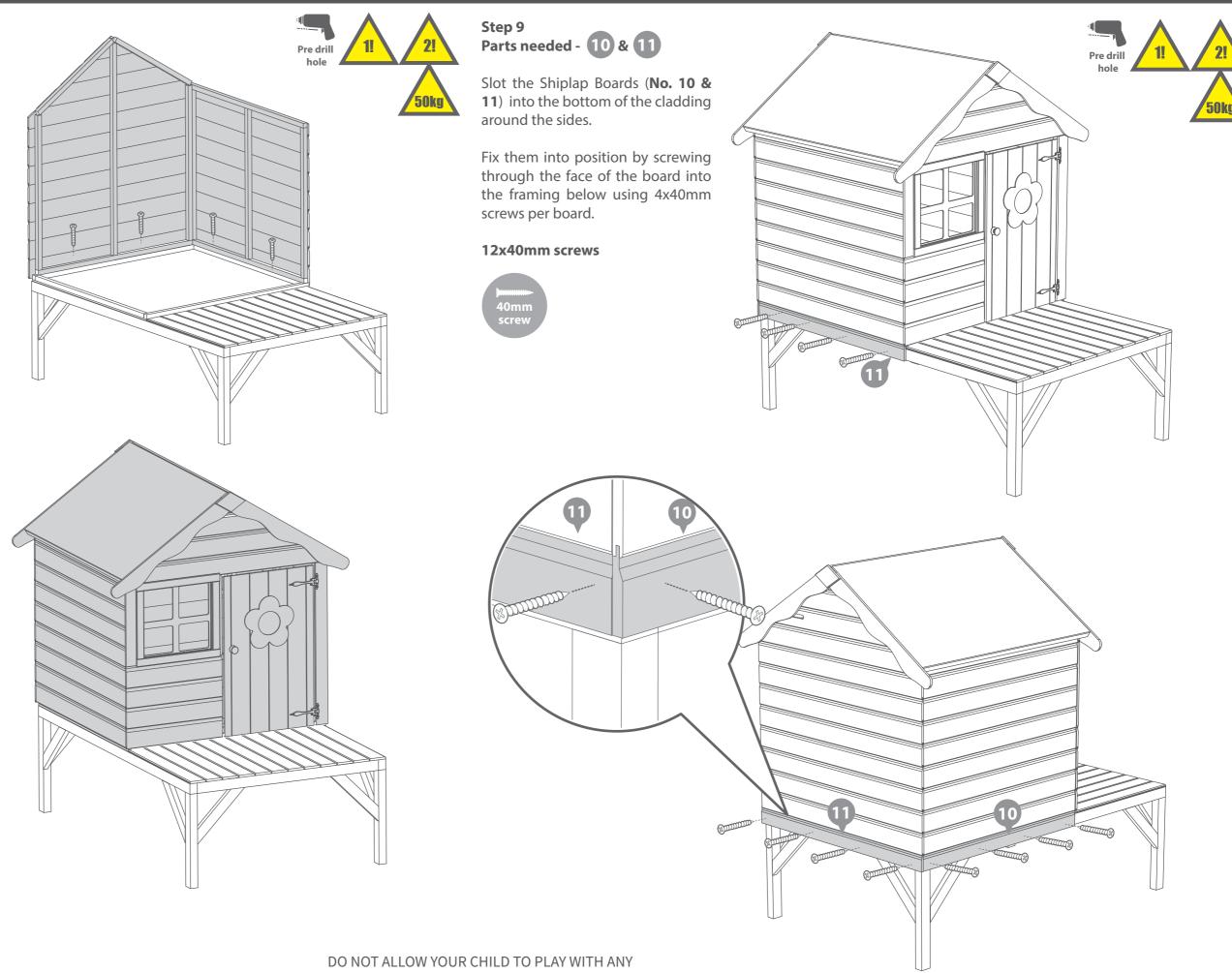
Follow the instructions provided with the playhouse to do this.

 $*Disregard\ the\ floor\ joists\ as\ these\ are\ not$ needed when fitting to the platform.

Secure the playhouse to the framing with 8x50mm screws.

8x50mm screws







Step 10 Parts needed - 12 & 13 & 14







Slot the two Ladder Steps (No. 14) between the Ladder Side Left (No. 12) and the Ladder Side Right (No. 13).

Fix with 2x50mm screws per end, as shown.

8x50mm screws



**Check for any post manufacture splits in the wood.

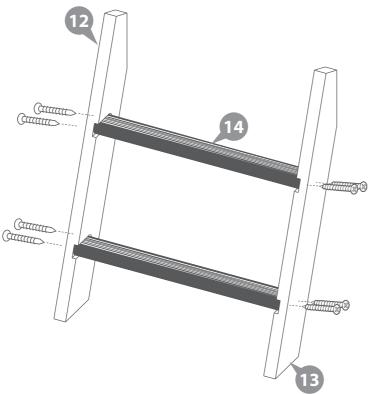
If present, do not use and contact the customer service team for replacement parts.











Step 11 Parts needed - 2



Place the Slide (No. 2) into position as shown. Fix into place with 2x40mm screws.

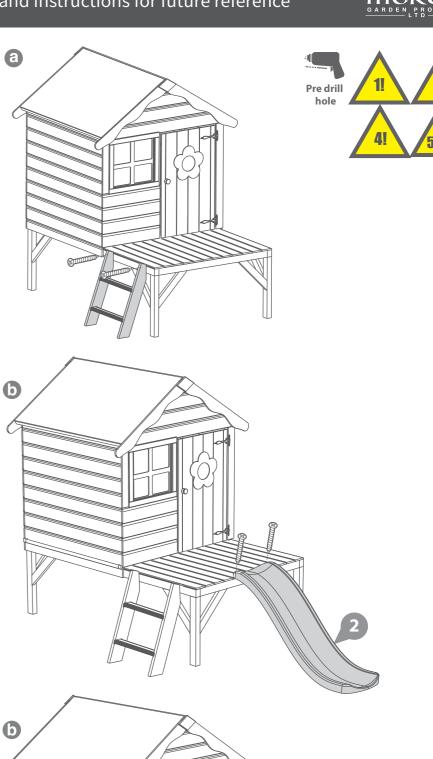
The position of the ladder and slide can be reversed to create an alternative set up if desired.

Do not place either the ladder or slide on the same side that the door opens as this creates a potential safety hazard.

2x 40mm screws 2x100mm screws

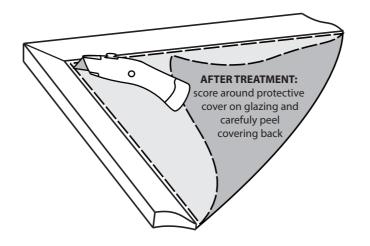














TREATING YOUR GARDEN BUILDING

Preservation of wood that's outdoors is vital. A little early care will help protect your garden building, improve its appearance and ensure maximum longevity. Insects, moisture, salt, and changing weather can have dramatic effects on the stability and appearance of your garden building. Once your building is installed, you've checked it over and you're happy with it, you can take a few basic precautions to prepare it for the elements. Treating your garden building helps prevent decay and, by repelling water, discourages the growth of moulds and fungi that could jeopardise the structural integrity of the wood.

Dip Treated buildings - Require a preservative treatment to protect against rot and decay and a waterproof treatment to prevent water ingress **Pressure Treated buildings** - Require a waterproof treatment to prevent water ingress Log Cabins/Insulated Garden Rooms - Are supplied untreated and require a preservative and waterproofing treatment.



To apply a preservative and water proofing treatment (pressure treated products do not require a preserver), follow the manufacturer's instructions but in principle, stick to the following steps:

- Wear latex or rubber gloves, eye protection and (if spraying) a mask.
- Prepare the wood, by sanding down any ridges or inconsistencies in the wood, smoothing out knots and end-cuts.
- Choose a dry day to treat your garden building. If you're spraying rather than brushing paint on, avoid a windy day.
- Be sure you can safely reach all the sections you need to paint and if you need a ladder, make sure it's safely positioned before climbing. Lay dust sheets around to avoid paint splatters on your base or surrounding plants.

- ✓ Tape around windowpanes to avoid smears when you're painting the frames.
- Keep pets and small children out of the way. The last thing you want is to have fur on your garden building paint, or little painted footprints all over your garden and home.
- Fill any gaps in the building's body with caulk or wood filler to prevent water and draughts getting in. Silicone based caulk is flexible and will move with the timber when temperature and humidity change. Allow to dry completely before treating. A handy tip for finding gaps is to go into your garden building and look for light leaking through joins and frames. If light gets in, then so will water.
- Liberally apply at least two coats of the treatment products with a brush or spray, taking care to allow the first coat to completely dry before applying the second.
- ✓ Make sure the solution permeates the whole of the surface area, especially around natural cracks, end cuts and nail/screw holes.







Perimeter

Check around the perimeter of your product to ensure there are not trees or plants that are in contact with or overhanging the building. This can affect airflow and overhanging trees, or branches can damage the roof, it is advised to keep plants at a distance.

Repair

Inspect the interior and exterior of the product to look for splits, cracks, and holes. Although this is a natural occurrence it can be prevented. A wood filler can be used to close the splits, cracks, and holes.

Roof

Check your roof regularly for tears, splits, damaged wood and fallen debris. If you notice any of this immediate repair is critical.

Doors & Windows

Expansion and contraction can cause doors and windows to stick or become difficult to open. Small adjustments to the hinge position can be made to the doors and windows to allow free movement.

Oil

Hinges can seize up over time, apply lubricant to the hinges and locks annually.

Screws & Bolts

It is advised to check all screws and bolts and tighten any loose you might find. For log cabins specifically the storm braces will require loosening. During humidity and temperature changes (seasons) to allow expansion and contraction to prevent gaping, twisting, popping, and warping.

Wash

At least once a year, give the outside of you building a good wash, to remove cobwebs, leaves, or any other dirt that may accumulate on the exterior.

Airing

Airing your product regularly prevents the build up of condensation which can cause the timber to rot and mould. Condensation can build up over time or daily, it is caused by a rise and fall in temperature. Leaving doors and windows open regularly can help combat the natural moisture build up.

Clean & Tidy

It is good practice to clean the inside and outside of your product regularly. Clear out the contents, sweep the floor, remove dirt and cobwebs. Check for areas of damp and investigate the cause to remove and prevent future occurrences. Check the ground around your product for build up of debris such as leaves, remove and ensure there is clear ventilation underneath the floor.

Additional Playhouse Maintenance:

It is recommended that the following checks and maintenance are carried out at the beginning of each season as well as at regular intervals during the usage season.

- Check all nuts /bolts/ screws for tightness and tighten when required.
- Check for movement / opening of wood giving rise to protrusion of nail heads and tips.
- Check hinges.
- Replace defective parts in accordance with the manufacturers instructions.
- Check any crossbeams, suspensions and anchors.
- If a swing is included; check the swing seat, chains and ropes.

IF THESE CHECKS ARE NOT CARRIED OUT THE ACTIVITY TOY COULD BECOME A HAZARD DO NOT ALLOW YOUR CHILD TO PLAY WITH ANY



All our garden buildings have been designed and manufactured with care and attention to be the perfect addition to your outdoor space. To ensure you do get the best out of your new garden building and to increase the longevity we advise that you follow the product instructions and our manufacturer's recommendations as detailed below. Thank you for choosing a Mercia Garden product!

Choosing the most suitable location for your garden building...

A minimum of 60cm should be left around the perimeter of your garden building to allow access for maintenance, annual treatment and to allow air flow around the building.

Where possible you should avoid placing your garden building underneath large trees to prevent the tree causing damage to the building.

Preparing the base for your garden building...

All our buildings must be built on a firm, level base to ensure the longevity of the building and prevent the wood from distorting. We recommend either concrete, concrete slabs or a wooden base, such as our 'Portabase'.

The base should be slightly smaller than the external measurement of the building, i.e. the cladding should overlap the base, creating a run off for water and preventing water from pooling underneath the building.

We also recommend that the floor of the garden building is a minimum of 25mm above the surrounding ground level to avoid flooding.

After installation...

Once your garden building has been installed, it will need to be treated within 14 days (weather permitting) and annually to prevent the timber from deteriorating and to waterproof it. This is required to maintain the anti-rot guarantee.

Dip Treated buildings - Require a preservative treatment to protect against rot and

and a waterproof treatment to prevent water ingress.

Pressure Treated buildings - Require a waterproof treatment to prevent water

Log Cabins/Insulated Garden Rooms - Are supplied untreated and require a preservative and waterproofing treatment.

We also recommend using a silicon sealant on the inside and outside of the windows as soon as possible after assembly and treatment to fully seal the windows.

Roofing felt/covering should be checked annually and replaced or fixed accordingly.

General maintenance and wood characteristics

As wood is a natural material it may be affected by the following:

Shrinkage and warping - The timber used in the construction of your garden building will have retained some of its natural moisture content. The moisture content of the timber will vary, depending upon prevailing environmental conditions, which will result in the components either naturally expanding or contracting. As the components dry out, shrinkage may occur. A good waterproofing treatment from the start is the best protection to minimise the effect of moisture loss/intake.

In extended periods of very warm weather getting some moisture to the building will help the overall balance. You can do this by spraying it down lightly with a garden hose. In contrast, after snow fall try to remove the snow as best as possible from the roof to prevent moisture intake and to remove the extra weight.

Top tip - using a garden brush will help you to reach the highest part of the building to remove snow and any debris left from bad weather.

Damp and mould - During the winter months, cold and damp conditions can result in an increased amount of moisture within your garden building, especially when used infrequently. Condensation can form on the timber and other items stored within your garden building. If left this moisture is likely to cause mould and mildew.

To prevent the build-up of moisture, we recommend leaving the door or windows of your building open from time to time, to allow the fresh air to circulate. We also advise against storing wet or damp items in your garden building as this will also increase the level of moisture in the building. If mould or mildew does start to form within your building we recommend using an anti-mould cleaner to remove it and to prevent it spreading, which if left untreated could permanently damage your garden building.

Splits, cracks and knots - You may notice small splits and cracks in some components or holes may appear where knots shrink and fall out. This will not affect the structure of your Garden building however, if you wish to fill them this can be easily done using any good quality wood filler.

Sap - is naturally occurring in wood and may appear in some boards of your garden building. If you wish to remove the sap, we advise waiting until it is dry and then using a sharp knife to carefully remove it. If the removal of the sap causes a hole in the timber, we recommend using a good quality wood filler to fill it.

For more handy hints and tips on how to care and maintain your garden building please refer to the MGP Customer Portal at www.mgplogistics.co.uk

Any further questions? Contact our Customer Service Team on: 01636 821215



Manufacturer's Warranty

All Mercia Garden Products are supplied with a 1 year warranty on all parts against manufacturing defects.

This warranty does not cover movement, warping or splitting of timber products over time.

This warranty will be voided if any of the following occur:

- 1. The building has been customised or modified/adapted in any way.
- 2. The person claiming is not the original purchaser of the building.
- 3. Any damage has been caused by or as a result of misuse.
- 4. The building has not been maintained and cared for in accordance to our advisories and manufacturer's recommendations.
- 5. The building has not been treated annually or as per the manufacturer's recommendations, please ensure receipts are kept to validate this claim.
- 6. The building has not been erected, fitted or installed as per the supplier instructions.
- 7. The building has not been erected on a suitable sized firm flat, solid level concrete/slab base or placed on pressure treated bearers.
- 8. The building is or has been placed with 2 feet (600mm) of any obstructions (walls, trees, plants, fences etc.) which can allow moisture to penetrate the timber.
- 9. The roofing felt has been incorrectly fitted or damaged, allowing water ingress, or has not been properly maintained.
- 10. Any windows and joints have not been sealed, inside and out, with silicone or other watertight sealant.
- 11. Any timber has been cut, pierced or drilled without subsequent application of approved cut-end treatment.





Anti-rot Guarantee

Mercia Garden Products offer a 10 year anti-rot guarantee on all dip treated (a preparatory treatment) and 15 years on all pressure treated products. This guarantee covers solid timber against rot, decay, blue stain and insect attacks.

To validate the guarantee the building must be treated (as detailed within manufacturer's recommendations) within 14 days (weather permitting) of assembly and annually thereafter.

This guarantee does not cover movement, warping or splitting of timber products over time.

This guarantee will be voided if any of the following occur:

- 1. The building has been customised or modified/adapted in any way.
- 2. The person claiming is not the original purchaser of the building.
- 3. Any damage is caused by or as a result of misuse.
- 4. The building has not been maintained and cared for in accordance to our advisories and manufacturer's recommendations.
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- 7. The building has not been erected on a suitable sized firm flat, solid level concrete/slab base or placed on pressure treated bearers.
- 8. The building is or has been placed with 600mm of any obstructions (walls, trees, plants, fences etc.) which can allow moisture to penetrate the timber.
- 9. The roofing felt has been incorrectly fitted or damaged allowing water ingress, or has not been properly maintained.
- 10. Any windows and joints have not been sealed, inside and out, with silicone or other watertight sealant.
- 11. Any timber has been cut, pierced or drilled without subsequent application of approved cut-end treatment.