Timber or Composite? Choosing the Right Shed for Your Garden

Nov 2026 · @Michelle Wallace

For over 24 years, we've built timber sheds in our own workshop here in Lyneham. Now we're adding composite sheds to the range, too. Both are good choices, but they suit different gardens and different people.

So rather than tell you one is better than the other, we've set out the honest pros and cons of each. That way, you can choose the shed that's right for you.

What is a composite shed?

A composite shed is clad in a material made from a blend of plastic and wood fibres. It looks like timber from a distance, but it won't rot, doesn't need treating and holds its colour for years.

Our composite range starts with the **Denby**, which comes with the following as standard:

- Zero-maintenance composite cladding, in tongue and groove planks
- 18mm floorboards
- EPDM rubber roof covering
- UPVC fascias
- Delivery and installation by our trusted partners at UK Garden Buildings
- A 25-year guarantee

There are three roof styles to choose from: a traditional apex, which sheds rainwater easily; a reverse apex, which can sit more neatly in awkward spaces; or a contemporary pent, with a single sloping roof for a clean, modern look.

We've chosen to bring you our composite range together with UK Garden Buildings, who also craft our Elite garden rooms. Like us, they're a proud family-run business, and we share the same values: quality you can see and care you can feel.

Timber sheds

A well-made timber shed is still the classic choice. Ours are built from fifth-grade redwood: FSC certified, kiln dried and selected for its heartwood, with Ex16mm shiplap cladding as standard.

The pros

- **A natural look.** Real timber softens into the garden and suits most settings, from cottage plots to new builds.
- **Made to measure.** We build our own sheds, so we can adjust sizes, doors and windows to fit your space and the way you'll use it.
- **Fits tight spots.** A timber shed can usually go closer to a fence, wall or hedge than a composite one.
- **Your colour, your choice.** Paint or stain it to match your house or fencing and change it later if you like.

- **Easy to repair.** If a board is ever damaged, it can be replaced without fuss.
- **Lower upfront cost.** Timber is generally the more affordable way to get a quality shed.
- **A ten-year warranty** on our standard sheds.

Things to bear in mind

- **It needs looking after.** Timber should be treated every few years to keep it protected and looking its best.
- **Weathering is natural.** Left untreated, timber will fade and can eventually rot.
- **A shorter guarantee.** Ten years, compared with 25 on our composite range.

Composite sheds

Composite is for people who want a good-looking shed that they never have to think about again.

The pros

- **Zero maintenance.** No painting, staining or treating, ever. That saves time, effort and money over the years.
- **Built to last.** Composite is highly resistant to rot, decay and pests.
- **A 25-year guarantee.** That's real peace of mind for a long-term investment.
- **Looks the same for years.** It comes in a range of colours and won't weather, so it won't become an eyesore.
- **Sturdy and weather-tight.** Tongue and groove cladding, an EPDM rubber roof and UPVC fascias stand up well to British weather.
- **Fitted for you.** Delivery and installation are included, carried out by the experienced team at UK Garden Buildings.

Things to bear in mind

- **It needs space around it.** You'll need a gap of at least 2ft (about 60cm) to the nearest fence, wall or hedge. This allows for the roof overhang and gives the installation team room to reach every part of the building during installation.
- **A bigger investment upfront.** Composite usually costs more at the start, though you save on upkeep later.
- **Colour is chosen once.** Composite isn't designed to be painted, so it's worth choosing a colour you'll be happy with for the long term.
- **Less flexibility on size.** Composite sheds come in set designs, rather than being built to your exact measurements.

Side by side

	Timber	Composite
Guarantee	10 years	25 years
Maintenance	Treat every year	None
Look	Natural timber, can be painted	Set colour, won't weather
Sizing	Made to measure	Set designs
Space needed	Can sit closer to boundaries	At least 2ft (60cm) clearance
Rot and pests	Protected with care	Highly resistant
Upfront cost	Lower	Higher
Roof	EPDM (pent) or heavy felt (apex)	EPDM rubber
Installation	Our own team locally	Included Nationally

So which is right for you?

Choose timber if you love the look of real wood, want a shed made to fit your space, or are working with a tight corner. It's also the better fit if you're happy to give it a little care every year.

Choose composite if you'd rather never pick up a paintbrush, want the longest possible guarantee, and have room for the 2ft clearance it needs.

If you're still not sure, we're happy to help. We can talk through your garden, what you'll be storing and the space you have, then point you towards the shed that will serve you best.

Call us on **01249 247305**, message us on WhatsApp at **07711 177116**, or visit bulldogshedsandfencing.co.uk.