



How to Build a Sturdy and Warm Shelter

When outdoors, shelter is one of 3 essentials you need, besides food and water. The "Log Hogan" is one of the best shelters for providing good shelter against the elements. It's sturdy, can be built any size, and you don't need anything for the wood to lean against. To build it, here's what you do.

Steps

- 1 Dig a pit a little taller than you are wide.** If you are 15" from one hip to the other, then make your pit 17"-20". Then make it as wide as you are tall. This may take some time, but it will provide extra warmth. (Optional step).
- 2 Find two sticks (preferably 2" in diameter) that have a fork at the top and have lots of branches.** Plant them in the ground about 3"-6".
- 3 Find a stick (2" in diameter) and place it across the forks.**
- 4 Find as many sticks as you can and place them on the stick that's across the two forked sticks.** Make sure that you place them as tightly together as possible. Also, if you can find lighter sticks, make layers. You should be able to crawl under the shelter and fit. The highest point of the roof should be no more than a foot away from your nose. Try to make the sticks the same length. It should now look like a wedge without any sides or front.
- 5 Place sticks going down the side.** You can lean them from the roof, or you could place them on the branches of the forked sticks, or better yet, do both.
- 6 If you can, place pine needles, small twigs, other dry tree and plant materials etc.** on the floor of your shelter. This will help to keep you warmer.
- 7 Insulate your walls and roof.** Place needles, twigs, leaves, dirt and whatever you can on the walls of your shelter.
- 8 Place mud on all the sections where sticks meet.** Give your Log Hogan some extra strength for wind and snow. (Optional step)
- 9 Make a door.** People have different ways of making them but if you don't know how, just lean some sticks covered in mud leaves etc., against your shelter.
- 10 If you want, you can find two more forked sticks and plant them in the ground 2 feet (0.6 m) away from your shelter.** Connect them to your shelter by using two sticks from the new forks to your shelter. Cover all the walls and the roof like you did your main shelter. Then punch a hole in it about 1" in diameter. You can build a SMALL fire for some extra heat and no smoke (that's why the hole is there). Only do this step if you can keep your fire under COMPLETE control. (Optional step)
- 11 Alternatively, find two trees about as far apart as your own height, plus a foot, and a branch that can reach between them.** Then find four sticks, about 5 foot (1.5 m) long and 4–6 inches (10.2–15.2 cm) thick, these will be your uprights. You will also need a big selection of slightly thinner sticks, these will act as 'walls'.
- 12 Lash two of your uprights together at one end, then repeat with the other two and lean these against both of the trees in an inverted V shape, digging in the ends.**

13 Place the longest remaining long branch between the two V's, resting on the top. Then lean all the sticks you have up against this 'beam' on both sides, leaving a gap on one side for a door. If moss is available, roll of a large section, keeping it intact, and line the bottom foot or so of your walls with this. Then thatch the rest, starting at the bottom, with ferns or spruce bows.

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Tips

- This shelter goes well with a long log fire. Make your fire in between two long thick logs parallel to your shelter and secure them so they cannot roll. this becomes more effective if you include a makeshift firescreen on the opposite side of the fire from your shelter.
- This takes a long time. Don't expect to have one that's effective in 5 minutes. Make sure you pack it with insulation for greatest effectiveness.
 - # If you wish to sleep off the ground, find two more sturdy branches that will reach the length of your shelter and lash them together about a foot from each end, leaving about a metre between them. Place these over the V's, from the top, so that as the V's widen, they are stopped from falling to the ground. then place sturdy shorter branches across between the two to form a bed.

Warnings

- If you're doing step 10, be EXTREMELY CAREFUL! Try to make a pit for your fire and that will reduce your risk of fire. If you are somewhere that has dry tinder wood, bark and leaves lying about, make a large bare circle of dirt/rocks or sand around the fire.

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