

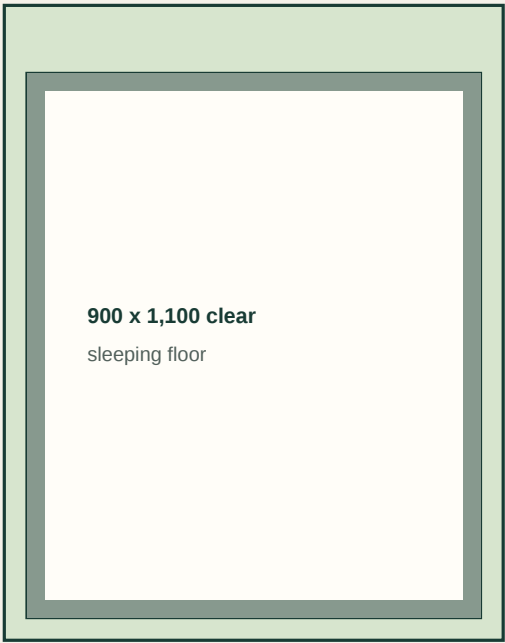
Build a dog shelter

Measured example - check the fit for your individual dog before cutting

FIT FIRST

The 900 x 1,100 mm clear floor and 350 x 500 mm entry are examples. Make a 1:1 template with the dog's bed; confirm the dog enters, stands, turns and lies naturally.

TOP PLAN / FLOOR

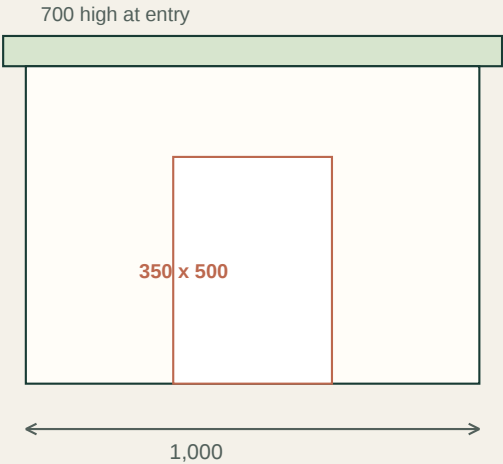


1,000

Roof outline: 1,100 x 1,400

Roof: 50 side / 150 front / 50 rear overhang

FRONT ELEVATION



1,200

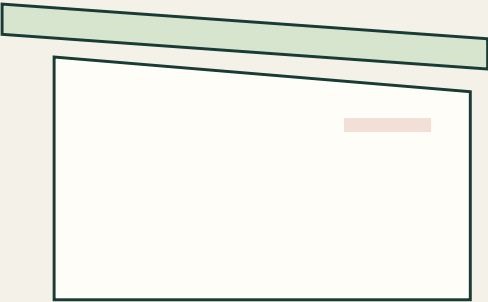
1,000

250 x 40 vent - one per side

100 mm drop over 1,200 mm

Use a complete roof system rated for this pitch.

SIDE ELEVATION / ROOF FALL



1,200 shell depth

IMPORTANT WELFARE LIMIT

An enclosed shelter can overheat. Provide separate all-day shade, airflow, fresh water and an open retreat. This plan is not a run, a permanent confinement system, or a substitute for bringing a dog indoors when weather or heat could cause distress.

Materials, cuts and assembly

All sizes are millimetres. Dimensions are for the worked example only.

PART	QUANTITY / CUT	MATERIAL / FIT
Floor and shell	Floor 1 x 1,000 x 1,200; front 1 x 1,000 x 700; rear 1 x 1,000 x 600; sides 2 trapezoids x 1,176 long (700 high front, 600 high rear).	12 mm exterior plywood. The two 38 x 38 mm inside corner posts at each end reduce the clear floor to about 900 x 1,100 mm.
Roof	1 x 1,100 x 1,400.	12 mm exterior plywood; 50 mm each side, 150 mm at entry, 50 mm at rear. Cover with a complete low-slope system approved for the actual pitch.
Base frame	2 x 1,200 long rails; 3 x 924 cross-rails.	38 x 38 mm exterior-suitable timber. Fit the three cross-rails between the long rails; square by comparing diagonals before fixing the floor.
Wall / roof battens	Front top rail 1 x 924; rear rails 2 x 924; rear centre stud 1 x 524; front corner posts 2 x 700; rear corner posts 2 x 600; side bottom rails 2 x 1,100; side top rails 2 x 1,104; side centre studs 2 x 574; roof bearer 1 x 1,104.	38 x 38 mm timber. Posts sit on the inside. Side top rails and centre bearer follow the sloping roof line; dry-fit and trim to the actual panels.
Entry supports	Jambs 2 x 500; lintel 1 x 350; lower front supports 2 x 249.	38 x 38 mm timber behind the front panel. Centre a 350 x 500 mm opening at floor level. Keep it clear and support each cut edge.
Vent openings	2 x 250 x 40, one in each side panel.	High, below the sheltered eave. Secure smooth-edged mesh over openings; never treat vents as a hot-weather guarantee.
Fixings / site	Exterior-rated 50 mm panel screws and 75 mm frame screws; mesh; compatible roofing membrane/edge detail; 6 level pavers or equivalent.	Select corrosion resistance for exposure and timber compatibility. No screw tip may project into the dog space. Have the supplier verify sheet nesting, kerf and cut allowance before purchase.

CUTTING ALLOWANCE

Add at least 10% stock for saw kerf and defects, then confirm the sheet count with a real nesting layout. Sheet formats and grain direction change the yield; ask the supplier to lay out the actual cuts before purchase.

Build order and final checks

Use the sequence below only after you have proved the example fits your dog.

1

Prove the fit

Make a full-size floor and doorway template with the dog's real bedding. Enlarge the clear space or entry before cutting if the dog brushes the sides or cannot turn and stretch naturally.

2

Square the base

Join the two long rails and three cross-rails. Compare both diagonals, adjust until equal, set the frame on drained support and fasten the floor without exposed screw tips.

3

Frame the panels

Cut the front, rear and sloping sides. Fit the corner posts, rails, entry supports and two high, sheltered vents. Smooth every reachable edge and cover vents with secure smooth-edged mesh.

4

Join the shell

Stand the front and rear panels on the base, fit side panels between them and fasten into the corner posts. Check the 900 x 1,100 mm clear floor after all posts are installed.

5

Fit the roof

Install the sloping top rails and centre bearer. Use a complete roofing system approved for the actual pitch; seal panel edges and fasteners as its maker specifies, then allow full cure.

6

Test and maintain

Check floor flex, entry clearance, leaks, airflow and all fasteners. Anchor for local wind without blocking drainage. Keep the dog away until finishes are safe and fully cured; inspect the shelter routinely.

WELFARE REFERENCES - SELECT A SOURCE

NSPCA South Africa

RSPCA Australia / housing

RSPCA Australia / heat

SPCA New Zealand

A closed shelter can overheat; shade, an open retreat, fresh water and supervision remain essential.