

Build a Reusable Sukkah

Sukkot is celebrated five days after Yom Kippur. One tradition, which takes the commandment to dwell in booths literally, is to erect a small, temporary booth or hut. The sukkah is used during the seven-day festival for eating, entertaining and even for sleeping.

While there are many ways to build a sukkah, to be considered Kosher:

- It must be built under the open sky, rather than under a tree or in a larger room.
- It usually should have four walls but it is also acceptable to have at least two complete walls and part of a third (for example, leaving an open space for a door in the third wall. There cannot be a space of more than nine inches between the bottom of the wall and the ground (this is a common problem with fabric sukkahs).
- Each wall needs to be at least 28 inches wide and 40 inches tall, but it may not be more than thirty feet tall. It should be at least big enough to fit one person inside.
- Roof: Your sukkah cannot be shaped like a teepee or a lean-to because it must have a roof. The roof covering must be made from something that grew from the ground but which is not still attached to the ground (Another reason why building under a tree doesn't work -- Vines or leafy trees cannot be used because they are still attached to the ground.).

In this activity you will create a simple sukkah that you can reuse each year

When: Technically, you should start building as soon as Yom Kippur ends. But Sukkot starts five days after Yom Kippur and lasts for seven days so you have some flexibility.

Preparation: You can buy sukkah kits and find many sets of instructions online for building a sukkah from scratch. Here are instructions for a simple structure that can be dismantled and used for multiple years. If you want a larger sukkah, build multiple 6' x 6' cubes. For this sukkah you will need:

- 12 pieces of PVC tubing (6' length, 1-1/2" or 2" in diameter recommended. Longer or thinner poles will "sag", necessitating additional vertical supports.)
- 8 PVC 3-way elbow connectors of the same internal diameter
- Three (or more) shower curtains and shower hooks or rings to create walls. These are generally available at a dollar store. If your walls will be longer than six feet, buy more shower curtains.
- Bamboo poles for roof. The roof must be made from natural materials. Bamboo poles are available at home improvement stores.
- Branches with leaves for roof.
- Duct tape
- Decorations, furniture



Build a Reusable Sukkah, continued

Activity:

1. Create a large cube using the corner connectors and PVC poles.
2. Using the shower curtain hooks/rings, attach walls.
3. If desired, poke holes in the sides of the shower curtains and use some of the curtain rings attach them to vertical poles to prevent the walls from blowing in any wind.
4. Lay bamboo poles across the top of the structure. If needed, tape poles together to create longer bamboo that will span the width of the sukkah.
5. Lay branches and leaves across the roof, making sure the sky is visible.
6. Decorate as desired. Add a small table and chairs for meals.
7. After Sukkot, dismantle the sukkah, bundle the pieces, and save it for next year.



<http://www.instructables.com/id/Sukkah-PVC-Freestanding/>