
Storage Sheds

- their construction and siting relative to other buildings

Introduction

An incident at a church in the Diocese, where a wooden shed in close proximity to a church caught fire and caused severe damage to part of the church, has prompted the issue of this Advisory Leaflet.

This leaflet is about small single-story sheds or buildings built for the storage of equipment, such as gardening tools, mowers, or chairs or other items which may not be used frequently. It does not apply to the use of temporary offices or similar 'Portacabin' style buildings, for which the makers/suppliers should supply recommendations about spacing from other buildings.

Construction

Sheds may be constructed of:

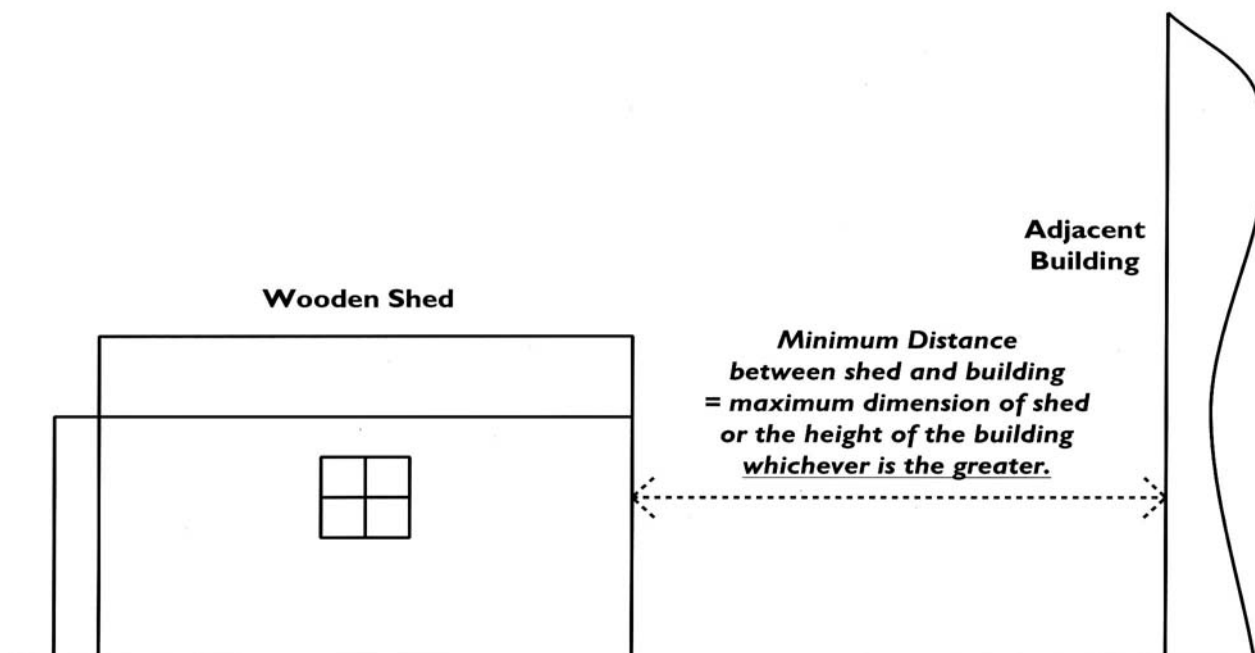
- Wood, which has the advantages of appearance and ease of erection but has the major drawback of being highly flammable and a considerable source of fuel itself. Flame-retardant paints may give resistance to small ignition sources but may not protect against a determined arson attack.
- Metal, which has the benefit of being reasonably resistant to fire but may have security problems and can be susceptible to arson.
- Concrete, which is inherently fire-resistant, but may not be very attractive.

Siting of wooden sheds

These should NOT be placed next to buildings – a space should be left as in the diagram overleaf. Preferably the building should also be on the down-wind side of the main building – in the Diocese the prevailing wind comes from the south-west.

These recommendations are based on the likely height of the flames and the effect of any wind pushing the flames towards the adjacent building.

Please turn over



Siting of sheds close to a building

Where the shed has to be close to a building, then the choice lies between metal and concrete. The following points should be observed for both these types of sheds:

- place near a wall which has no window openings above the shed, if possible;
- no doors or windows in the wall of the shed nearest the building;
- a minimum space between building and shed of 1m (3ft) for metal sheds and 0.5m (1.5ft) for concrete sheds.

Additional information and advice is available from the DAC team:

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