

SHED-TO-SAUNA

Reuse, repair or rebuild assessment for an existing outbuilding

Hot Tub Patio | Printable planning worksheet | Companion to draft post #27864

The shed you already own is not automatically cheaper to convert. Establish whether the building is structurally sound, stays dry and can accommodate the final sauna enclosure.

1 | Shell condition and sauna feasibility

What to inspect	Evidence needed	PASS / REPAIR / STOP
Structure	Foundation, load path, floor and wall framing reviewed	_____
Weatherproofing	Roof, cladding, door and bottom edges free of unresolved leaks	_____
Room size	Finished clear height / floor area adequate after build-up	_____
Heater	Exact model, minimum clearances and sensor positions documented	_____
Wall system	Insulation, vapor control and drying method specified	_____
Ventilation	Intake, exhaust, post-use drying and roof penetrations planned	_____
Utilities	Power / chimney / water / drainage requirements assessed	_____
Approvals	Siting, electrical and change-of-use questions checked	_____

2 | Record dimensions before and after build-up

Dimension	Existing shed	Finished sauna
Clear internal width	_____	_____
Clear internal length	_____	_____
Clear ceiling height	_____	_____
Entry and service route	_____	_____

STOP examples: structural instability, major unresolved rot, blocked exit, or heater clearance that cannot be achieved. These issues need professional review, not a score to average against cheaper costs.

SHED COST COMPARISON

Compare a safe conversion with repair and a purpose-built alternative

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Write down local written quotes. Do not use published national prices as substitutes for your site. Include permits and likely rework, and compare the same work scope.

3 | Side-by-side quote worksheet

Quote item	Reuse existing	Repair + convert	New sauna
Structure / foundation / weatherproofing	_____	_____	_____
Sauna enclosure / paneling / benches	_____	_____	_____
Heater / controls / safety components	_____	_____	_____
Ventilation / door / sensors	_____	_____	_____
Electrical / chimney / regulated work	_____	_____	_____
Labor / delivery / permits / contingency	_____	_____	_____
Total confirmed quote	_____	_____	_____

4 | Decision

Outcome	What supports this decision?
☐ REUSE	_____
☐ REPAIR	_____
☐ REBUILD	_____

A low quote is not a safety approval. Follow the specific sauna/heater manual, qualified trades and local building/fire requirements.