



The Ultimate DIY Cabin Builder's Checklist

Phase 1: Planning & Preparation

- ☐ Research and finalize your cabin design and blueprints.
- ☐ Check local zoning laws and building codes.
- ☐ Secure necessary permits.
- ☐ Create a detailed budget and timeline.
- ☐ Finalize the cabin's location and orientation on your site.
- ☐ Create a complete list of tools and materials.
- ☐ Order materials and arrange for delivery.

Phase 2: Foundation & Flooring

- ☐ Clear and level the construction site.
- ☐ Ensure proper site drainage.
- ☐ Lay out the foundation perimeter.
- ☐ Install the foundation (skids, piers, or slab).
- ☐ Ensure the foundation is perfectly level and square.
- ☐ Build the floor frame (subfloor).
- ☐ Install floor insulation.
- ☐ Attach the floor decking (plywood or OSB).

Phase 3: Framing & Sheathing

- ☐ Assemble the wall frames on the floor deck.
- ☐ Raise and brace the walls one by one.
- ☐ Ensure all walls are plumb (vertical) and square.
- ☐ Securely fasten the walls to the floor deck and to each other.
- ☐ Install the exterior wall sheathing (plywood or OSB).
- ☐ Frame the roof structure (rafters and ridge beam).
- ☐ Install the roof sheathing.

Phase 4: Exterior & Weatherproofing

- ☐ Install roofing underlayment.
- ☐ Install the final roofing material (metal, shingles, etc.).



- ☐ Install windows and doors, ensuring they are level and sealed.
- ☐ Apply flashing around all openings.
- ☐ Install exterior siding.
- ☐ Apply exterior paint, stain, or sealant.

Phase 5: Interior & Utilities

- ☐ Run electrical wiring and plumbing lines (rough-in).
- ☐ Install insulation in walls and ceiling.
- ☐ Install an interior vapor barrier.
- ☐ Install interior wall coverings (drywall, pine paneling, etc.).
- ☐ Lay the final flooring.
- ☐ Install kitchen cabinets and countertops.
- ☐ Install bathroom fixtures.
- ☐ Install light fixtures, outlets, and switches (finish electrical).
- ☐ Paint and finish interior surfaces.

Phase 6: Final Touches

- ☐ Complete final inspections.
- ☐ Install trim and molding.
- ☐ Build any decks, porches, or steps.
- ☐ Final site cleanup.
- ☐ Move in and enjoy your new cabin!