Platform Construction

This set of instructions is intended as a guide for the construction of a permanent platform for the large Wendy House (the Manor). These instructions provide the details of how I construct a supporting platform and are based on my experience with what works well, is cost effective and is visually appealing. The customer may wish to construct their own style of platform and simply use this document as a guide only.

The floor of the Wendy House sits on 24 pads that need to be supported for optimum performance. The platform outlined in this document provides excellent support for the floor of the Wendy House.

The picture shows the Wendy House sitting on top of the constructed platform. The pads of the floor can be seen sitting just inside the perimeter of the platform.

The floor of the Wendy House measure 3m long by 1.6m wide. The inside dimensions of the platform need to match or exceed the size of the floor. Therefore, the inside dimensions of the platform must measure at least 3m long by 1.6m wide. Ideally it is better to construct the platform slightly larger (e.g. 3.05m by 1.65m) than the size of the floor to allow for any small discrepancies in measurements and materials.

Follow the steps below for the construction of this platform.

1. Choose a location for the site of the platform and Wendy House. Ideally choose a site that is flat or gentle sloping and is without surface vegetation and roots.
2. Construct the retaining board perimeter of the platform. I use 100by50 H3 timber which is suitable when the site is flat or gentle sloping. For maximum economy purchase 2 fence rails at 4.8m (usually around $20 each). Cut each rail into 1.75m and 3.05m lengths. Join the 1.75m lengths to the 3.05m lengths at each end with suitable fixings (refer to picture). The finished inside dimensions of the retaining board perimeter should now measure approximately 1.65m wide by 3.05m long.

3. Mark out an area on the ground that is slightly greater than the extent of the retaining board perimeter (i.e. 1.8m by 3.2m) using pegs at the corners. Within this area, using a spade, remove the topsoil to an approximate depth of 100mm.
4. Fix the retaining board surround to the ground. The best way to do this is knock wooden pegs firmly into the ground at the surround corners and mid-span and attach the surround to the pegs using suitable fixings (refer to picture). Using a spirit level make sure that the surround is level on all sides. Locate the surround at a suitable height that fits within the ground profile.

5. Fill inside the retaining board surround with base course up to about the 3/4 height of the surround. This will require about 900 litres of basecourse or one full trailer load. Compact using the bottom of the spade or by stomping on.
6. Spread pea metal (small crushed rock) over the basecourse to about the finished height of the surround. This will require about 125 litres of pea-metal. Broom to level with the sides of the surround. Refer to picture.

7. Place the floor panel of the Wendy House on top of the pea-metal inside the wooden surround. Titivate where necessary to provide an even support to all 24 pads on the base of the floor panel. Refer to pictures. If done correctly, the floor should feel solid to walk around on.

8. Refill with topsoil any gaps around the outside of the surround where the ground was originally cut in preparation.
9. Continue with the remainder of the assembly of the Wendy House.