

# RENEW

## A Second Chance at my Weekend Retreat

My first cabin was 16'x16'. I had a full bathroom, 10'x16' loft, kitchenette, television, a couch, a bed, and everything else needed for a perfect weekend retreat into hill country. It had about twice the floor space of your average American hotel room. In its glory it looked like the picture on the left. After a wild fire it looks like the picture on the right. I am not building on that site but further up the hill in a clearing, a place for new memories.



The first cabin was around \$4,000 in total expenditure. I ended up building too big for weekend use. The family occasionally complained that while we there I wanted to build and they wanted to play. So I want to reduce the overall build time and end up with a finished product and spend more time using than building. The next one I am setting some requirements and sticking to them, I'm not going to budge on my requirements or design and build goals. So it's time to figure some stuff out

## Why will you call it the Feenix?

I have decided whatever this is named, has to be based on its story. This has to be a name of how it came to be. In March of 2011 there was a wildfire that burned through a massive area of land covering a straight line distance of approximately 22 miles. In this area several cattle ranches were burned. Tens of thousands of acres of woods were burned. Several families lost their homes. I lost my weekend retreat. All of this now sits in charred remains or ashes. This structure is named for the "Phoenix" who was a mythical bird who burned in flames and was reborn from the ashes. I am also putting a twist on the conventional spelling but keeping the pronunciation. Since I am building this once again to eliminate the camp ground or hotel or motor home rental fees, I will call this the "Feenix"



**Fee** / fē / Noun

1. A payment made for professional advice or services.
2. Money paid as part of a special transaction, e.g., for a privilege or for admission to something.

**Nix** / niks / Verb:

Put an end to; cancel:

**Phoenix** / 'fēn iks / Noun:

(In classical mythology) A unique bird that lived for five or six centuries in the Arabian desert, after this time burning itself on a funeral pyre and rising from the ashes with renewed youth to live through another cycle

## How to decide what to build?

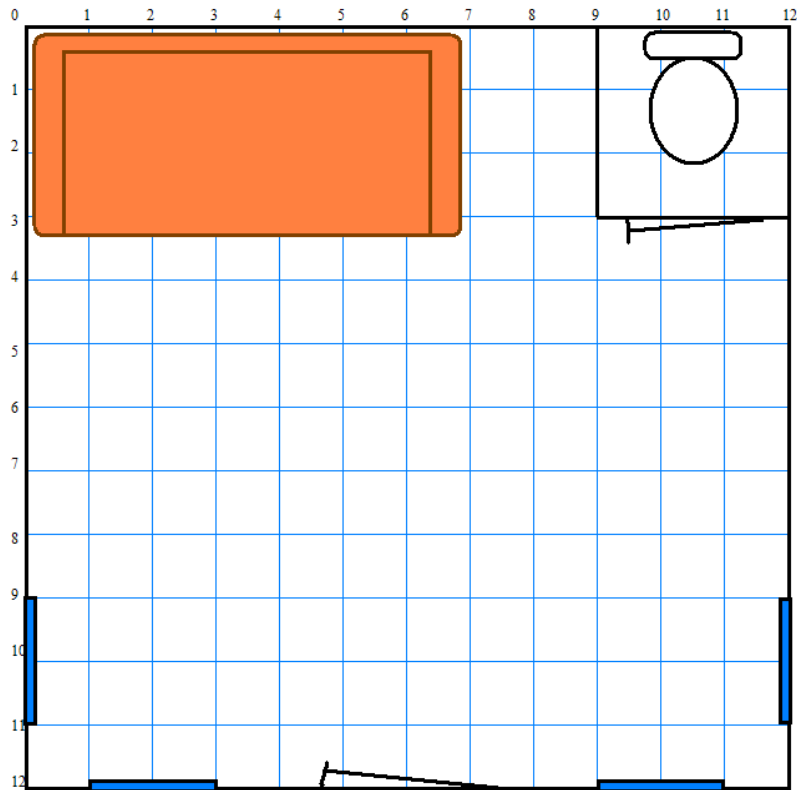
Here is a basic list of questions I really have to ask myself and be able to honestly answer them to figure out what is right for me. This will apply to you and your build too.

1. Who is going to make use of this facility?
  2. What are in inside uses going to be?
  3. What does the outside use need, yes need?
  4. Where is the property and how hard is it to get build materials to the build site?
  5. When is there time to build?
  6. How many guests actually go up?
  7. What is the overall budget?
  8. Is there any special needs (television, video games, toilet, electric, LPG, etc.)?
  9. What are the uses for this cabin?
  10. How do you accommodate so many in a small space?
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1. The people using the facility during the spring and summer will be my wife, daughter, and I, plus the occasional guest or 2.
  2. I would like to have a toilet indoors, and I don't care what kind as long as I can do my business. I would like to have a small counter for preparing light meals, and a place to shove my ice chest. I want a bed for my daughter or hunting buddy and a hide-a-bed couch for me and my wife.
  3. I have to have a porch. Something that can be screened in later on too. This was a point of failure with the last cabin because folding chairs teetered, and walking on uneven ground after a few drinks was difficult.
  4. The property is remote. Working on the site with a generator isn't too bad, but building "kit" panels for a cabin in my garage here at home and assembling them "on site" will save a great deal of time and reduce time spent building.
  5. Building a "kit" at home will also allow me to complete more work during the week, and I'll have more time on the property to ride ATV's, shoot guns, play games and tend the garden.
  6. Occasionally one of my neighbors and his wife go up. So we have to be able to accommodate them. During hunting season, my hunting buddy meets me up there, but then my wife and daughter aren't there. So it looks like just me by myself, or up to 5 people total.
  7. I will keep this under \$1,500 total. There are about 3 months of winter I just don't go up.
  8. I would like to have 110v power to accommodate a small television, charge cell phones, a small window air conditioner and fans, possibly an electric heater, maybe a couple of outlets for a coffee pot or kitchen electric grill.
  9. I want to use this (once again) to camp out during the spring, summer, and hunting seasons without paying all the temporary land use fees or camp ground fees.
  10. The plan will be designed around sleeping 5 people for 3 days. So a sleeping plan has to come first.

## Base it on Available Sleeping

A hide-a-bed couch will fit 2. If I have an overhead bunk I can fit 1 kid or 1 adult easily. The occasional guests can hit an air mattress on the floor. That will accommodate my wife, daughter, and I easily. It will also allow for the occasional neighbors to visit, or my hunting buddy during hunting season(s).

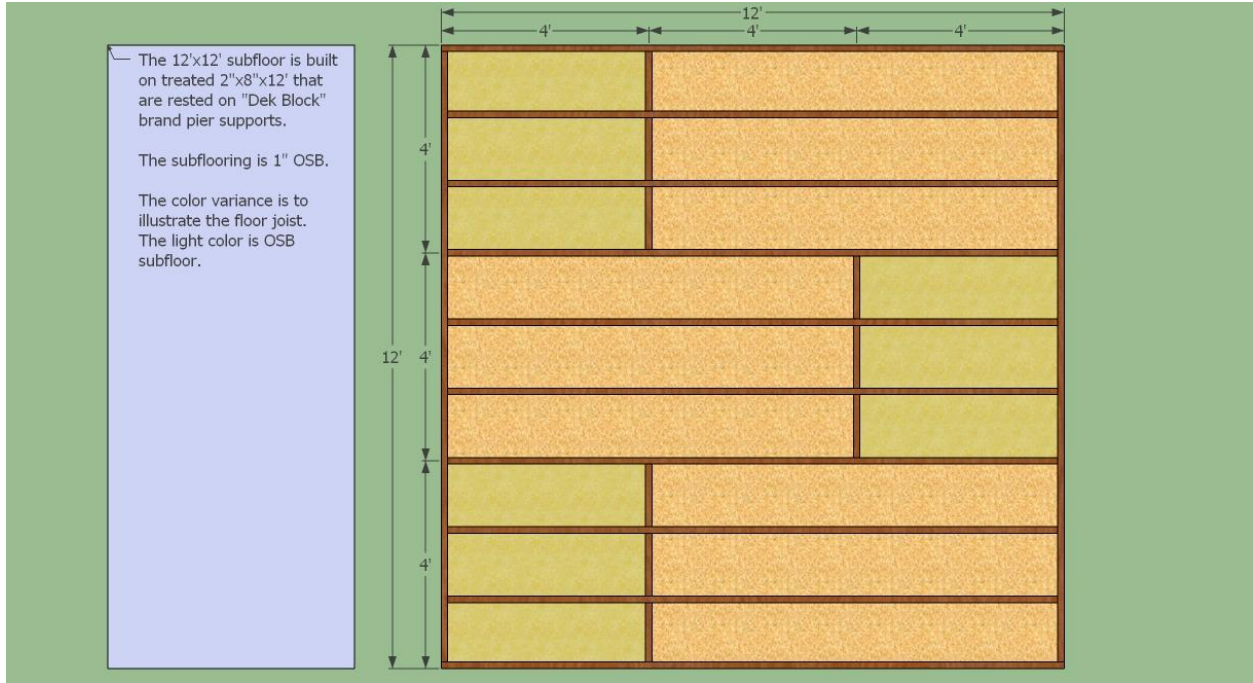
This plan, allows for an indoor toilet (composting toilet, Port-O-Potty, RV toilet, etc.). It has enough room available to put in a hide-a-bed, and when open there is still room for an air mattress. There is room to hang a dart board or place a small TV stand or a table for cards. I'm sure I can magically come up with some sort of a bunk bed, or shelved bed, or even a partial loft style bed or shelf for bags and hunting equipment. 12'x12' seems to be accommodating enough for weekend use.



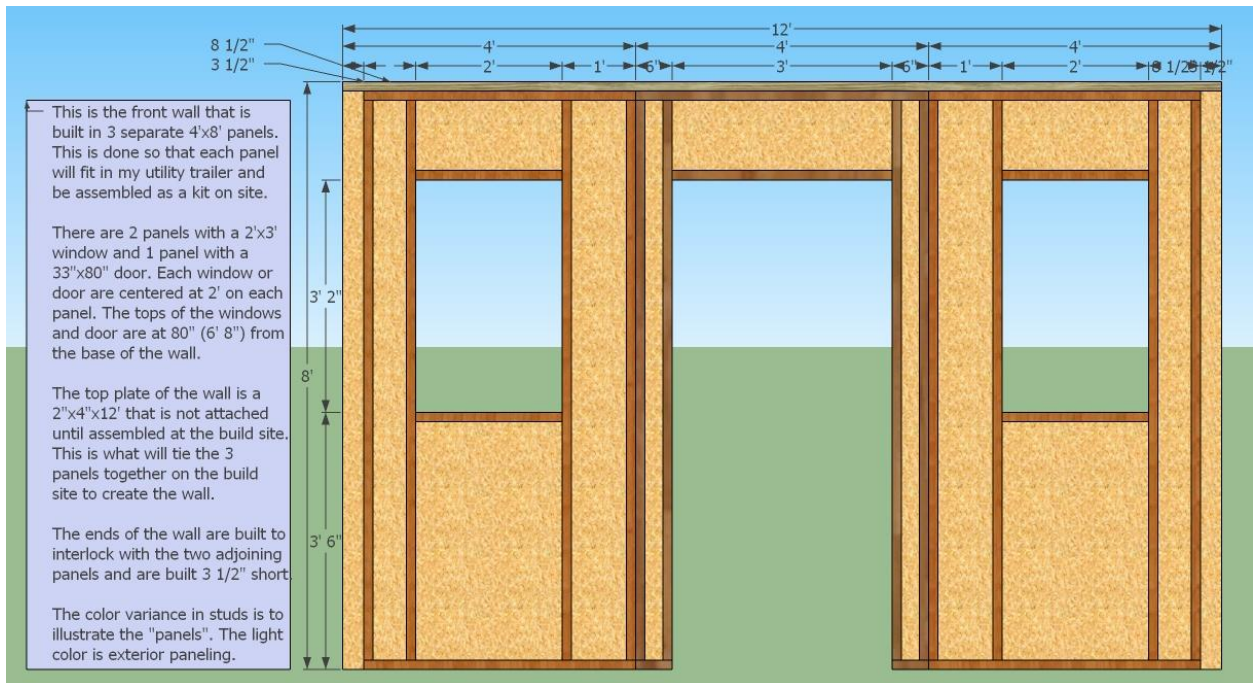
This is what I want, and from just rough estimates after a trip to the big box store home improvement centers, I think I might be able to build right around \$1,500. Now it is time to Google Sketch Up™ some plans and a 3d model. Once I build a model, I'll be able to build a materials list and a cost estimate.

# Plans, FREE plans

## Subfloor

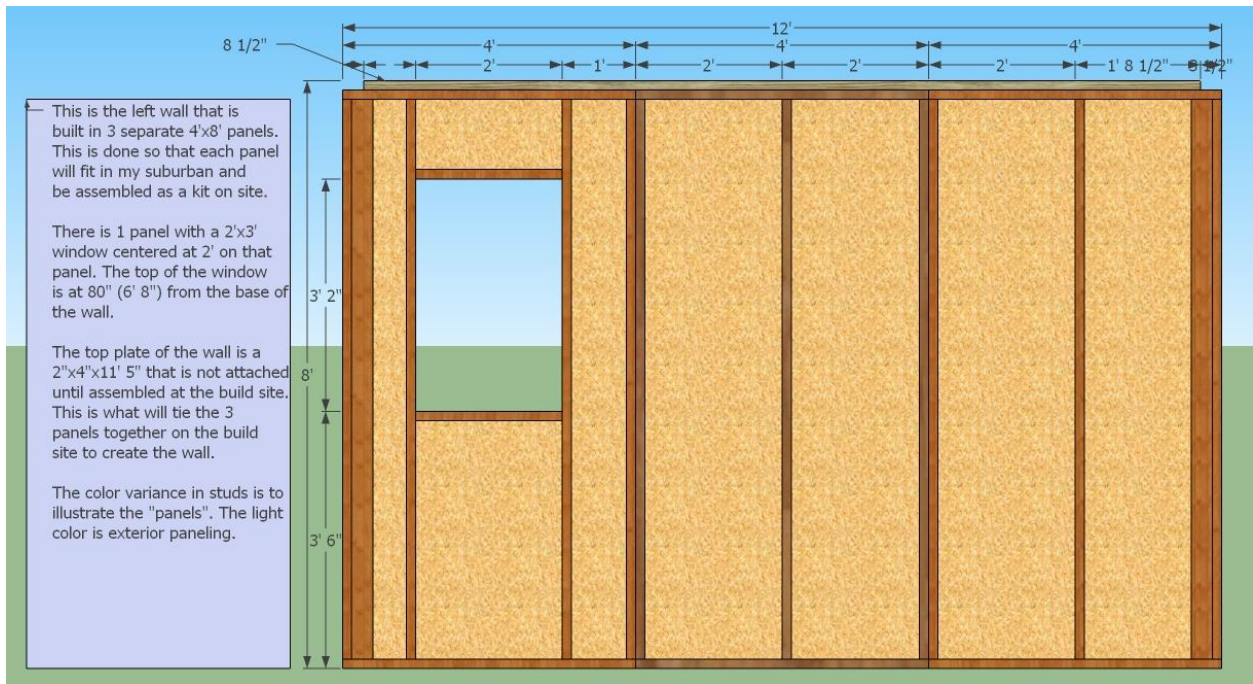


## Front Wall

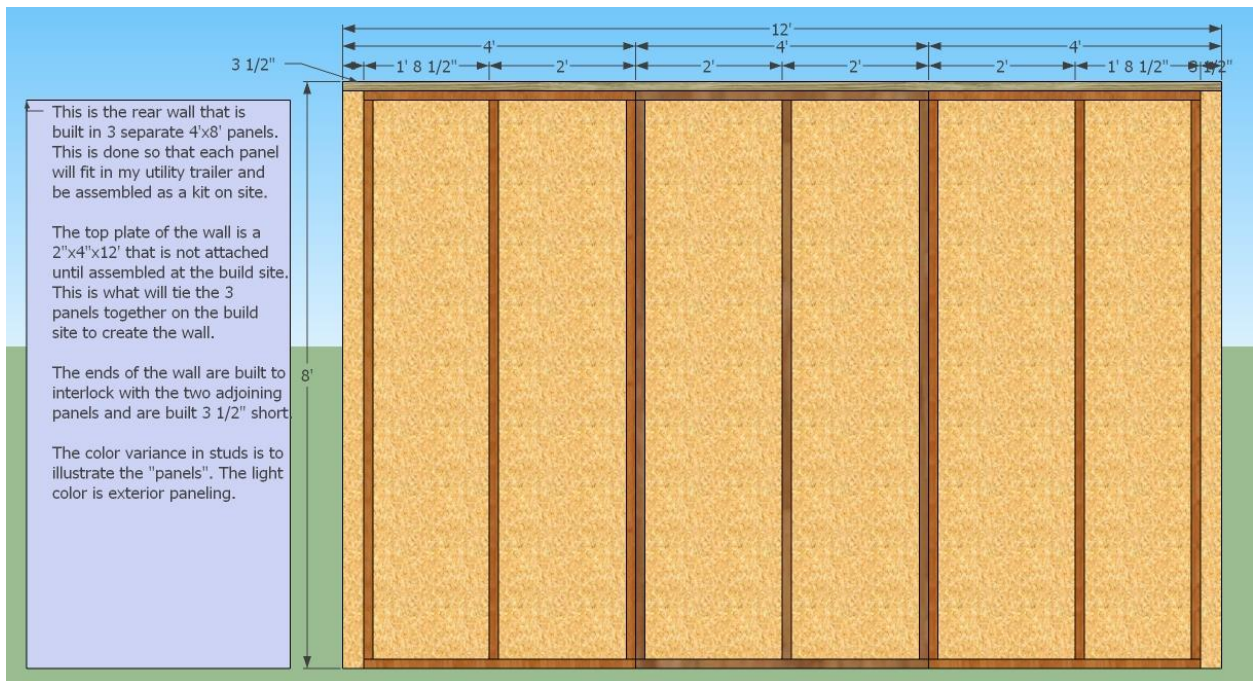




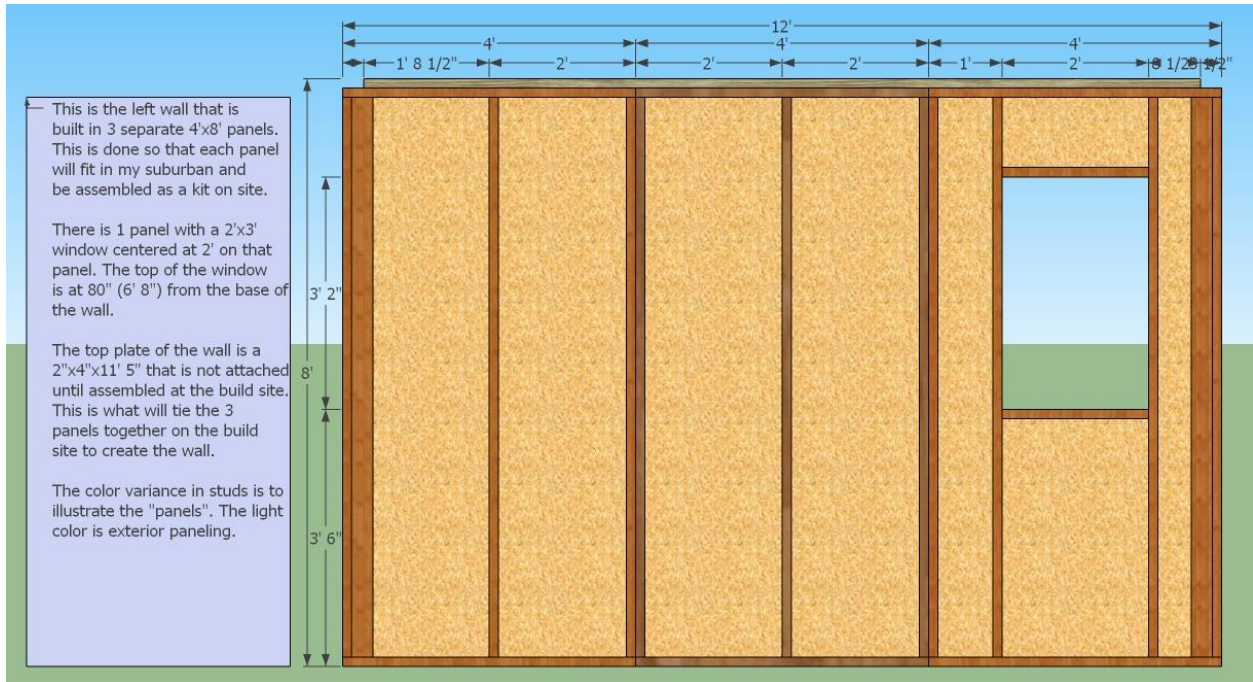
## Left Wall



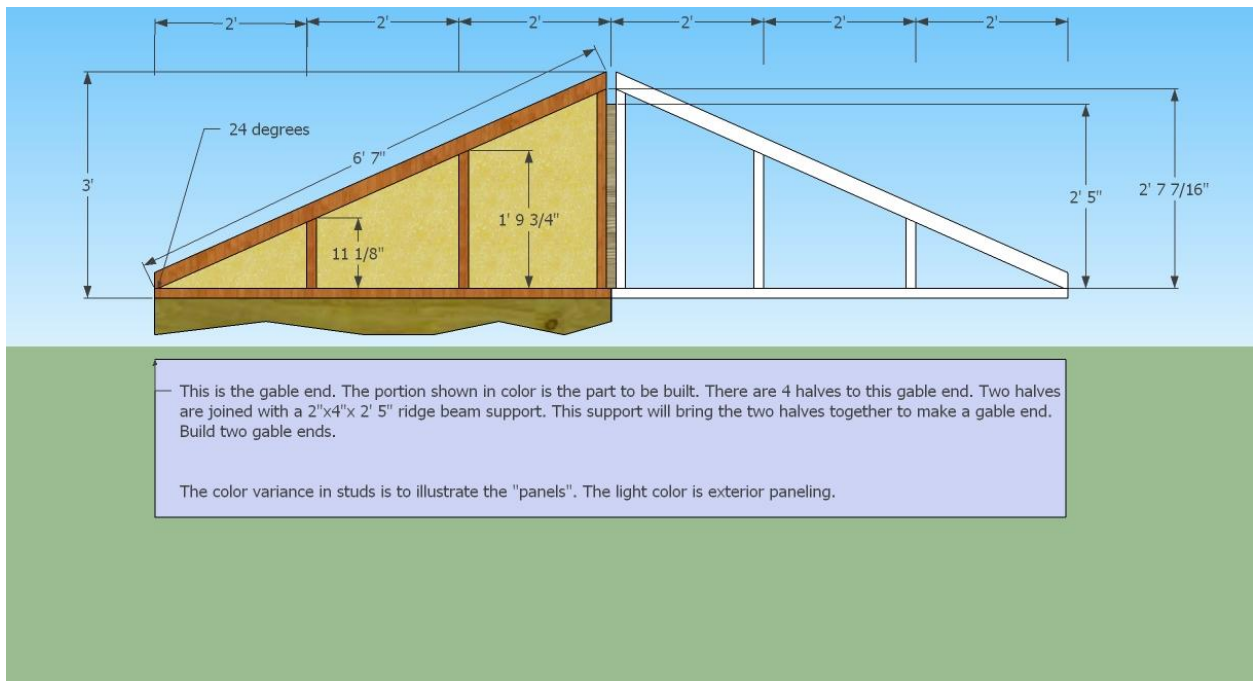
## Rear Wall



## Right Wall

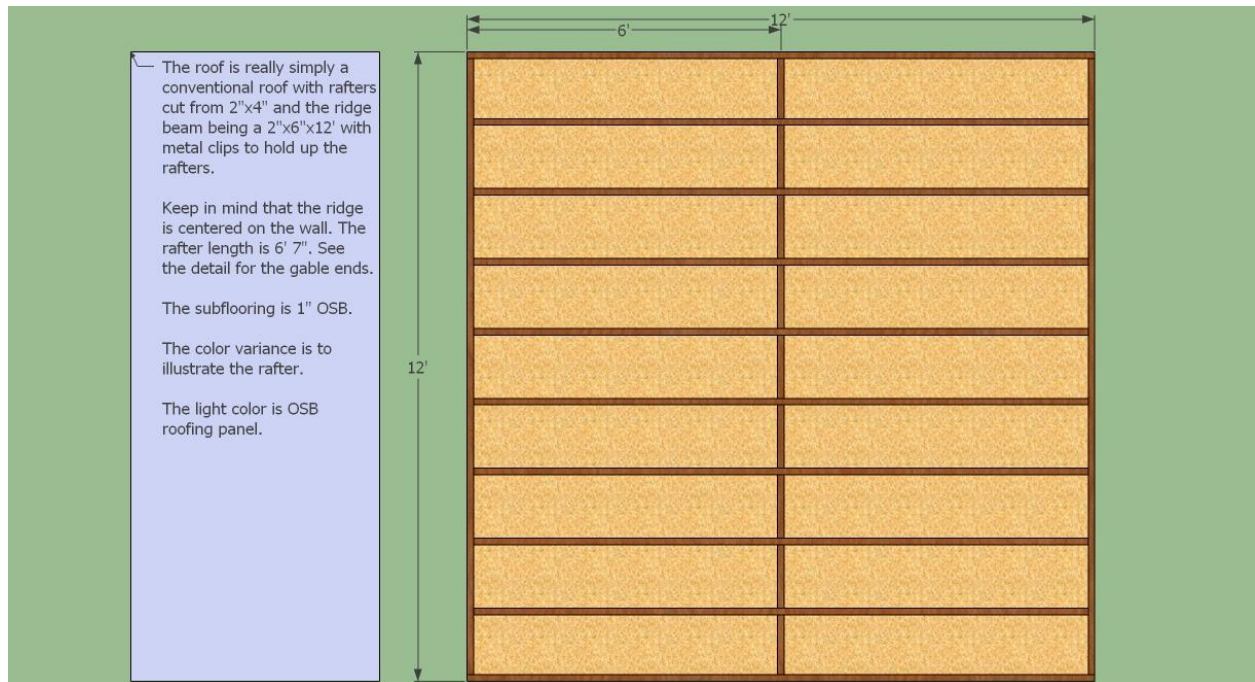


## Gable End x2

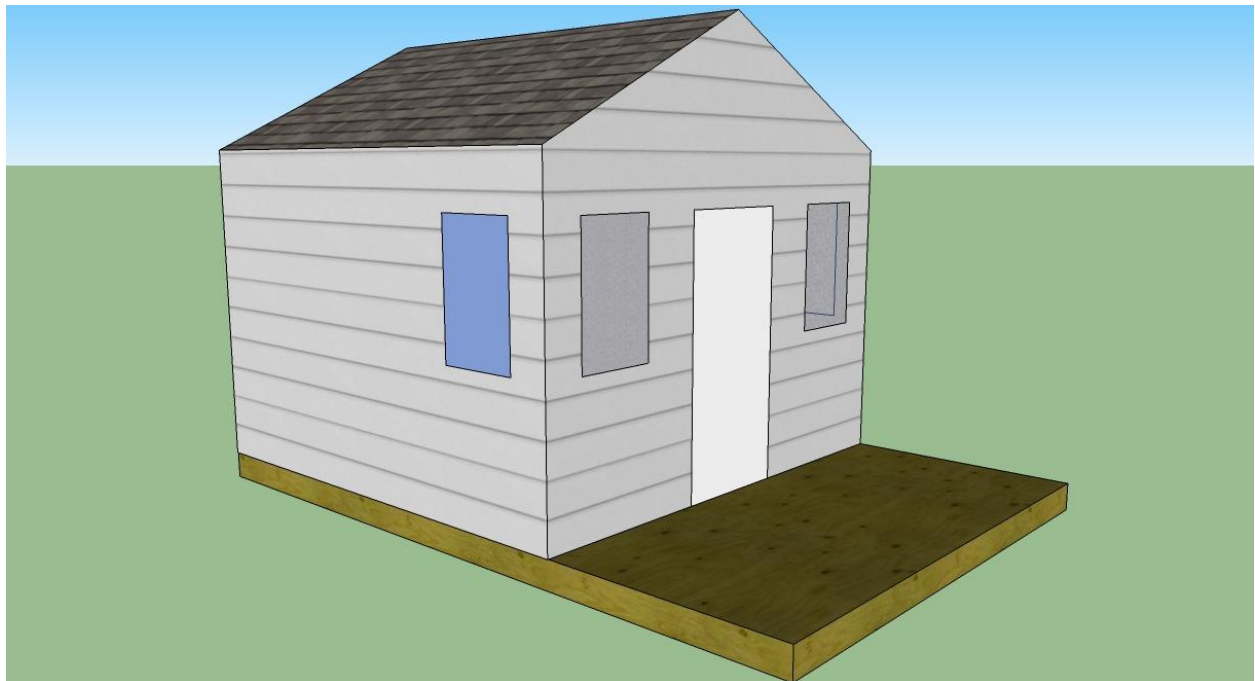




## Roof



## 3d Model





## Materials List

SUBFLOOR		Each	Total			
16	Deck Blocks	\$6.40	\$102.40		Sub Total	\$1,292.34
13	2"x8"x12' treated joists	\$6.65	\$86.45		Tax	\$116.31
5	1" OSB	\$9.47	\$47.35		Grand Total	\$1,408.65
WALLS						
46	2"x4" stud	\$2.09	\$96.14			
15	2"x4"x8'	\$2.34	\$35.10			
4	2"x4"x12'	\$4.34	\$17.36			
12	4'x8'x3/8" Plywood	\$9.47	\$113.64			
4	2'x3' single hung window	\$37.00	\$148.00			
1	32"x6' 8" exterior door	\$119.90	\$119.90			
1	Deadbolt / Doorknob Lockset	\$19.92	\$19.92			
GABLE ENDS						
2	2"x4"x12'	\$4.34	\$8.68			
12	2"x4"x8'	\$2.34	\$28.08			
ROOF						
20	2"x4"x8'	\$2.34	\$46.80			
1	2"x6"x12'	\$6.65	\$6.65			
6	4'x8'x5/8" OSB	\$9.47	\$56.82			
1	30# Roofing Paper	\$17.20	\$17.20			
12	2'x8' Tin Roof Panel	\$19.92	\$239.04			
FACIA						
2	2"x6"x12'	\$6.65	\$13.30			
4	2"x6"x8'	\$6.65	\$26.60			
MISC.						
1	Bucket Roofing nails	\$22.95	\$22.95			
1	30LB Bucket 16D nails	\$39.96	\$39.96			