

## 8'x12' Glorified Tool Shed, My 2<sup>nd</sup> Cabin

After the first cabin went up in flames, quite literally, I reluctantly decided to rebuild. Wildfires in my neck of the woods are apparently common. I should have realized this the first year when I got so excited that a wild fire burned all the grass, leaves, and small brush away that I could see the old trails on my land. Lessons learned the hard way are bad. This time I will be a better steward of my land and maintain an area around my cabin more commonly known as a firebreak. I didn't want to disturb too many trees, but now they are burned and not growing leaves this year. It's time to cut them down so sunlight can foster new growth (a large garden).

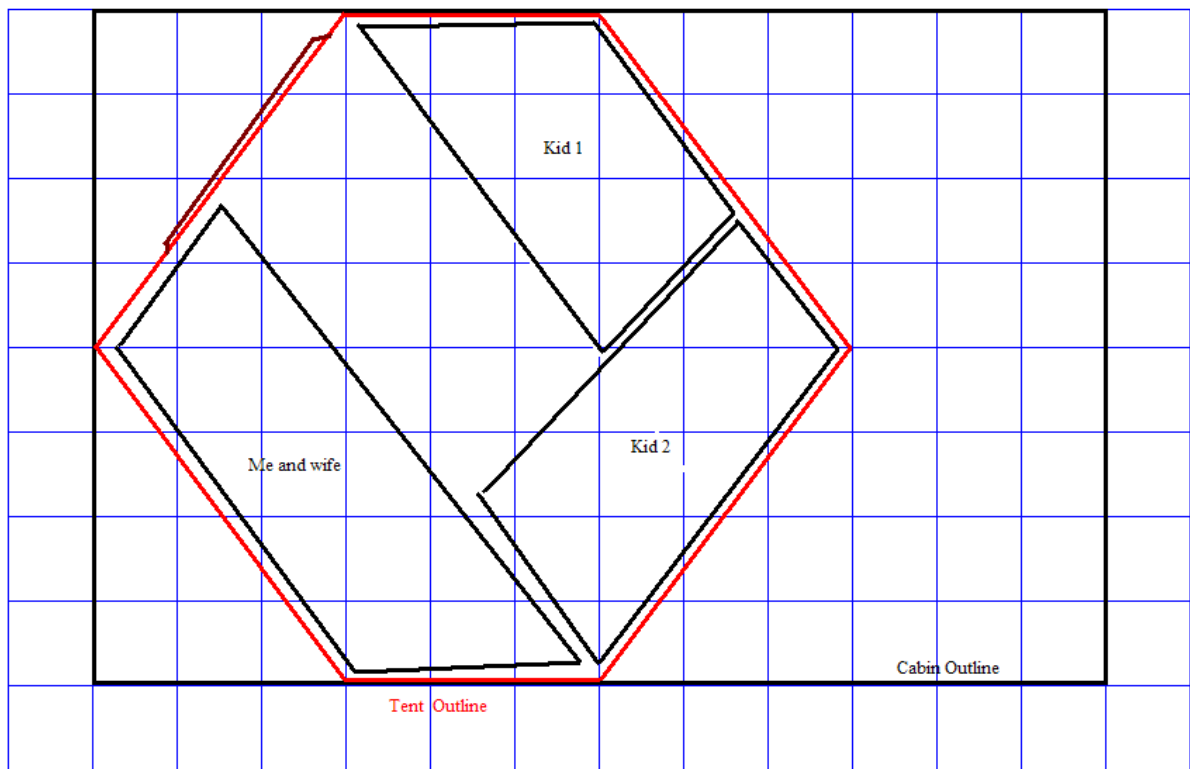
My goal was to build a 12'x12' cabin, to maximize the available floor space without a loft. I quickly realized, when we do take guests up, we sit by a camp fire, or outside to take in the view and talk. We are normally only there overnight, so we only need a replacement for a tent. When we went camping with friends, we slept in a 5 man tent. Now, well I'll still be sleeping myself during the build, maybe a friend or rarely my wife and daughter. There isn't much more of a need than an air mattress or a couple of Army surplus cots. They will fit just fine in an 8'x12' cabin. I want an indoor toilet. I can go overnight without a shower, or use a solar shower outside. A small 3'x3' room will suffice for a toilet, it's the same size as a portable outhouse on most construction sites, and is easily built. A simple "add on" later in the project.

The 12'x12' size was scrapped during the estimate process. It's another glorified tool shed to sleep in. I need room for a bed and a toilet. It's also approximately US\$400.00 less expensive. With build cost being around US\$1,000, instead of US\$1,400, I can easily appreciate the savings and complete the project faster than a 12'x12' or rebuilding the 16'x16' with loft. In my earlier searches for plans, I found a few designs that had the look I wanted. Then I found a magnificent weekend get-away that has the potential for a screened in porch and it looked like this...



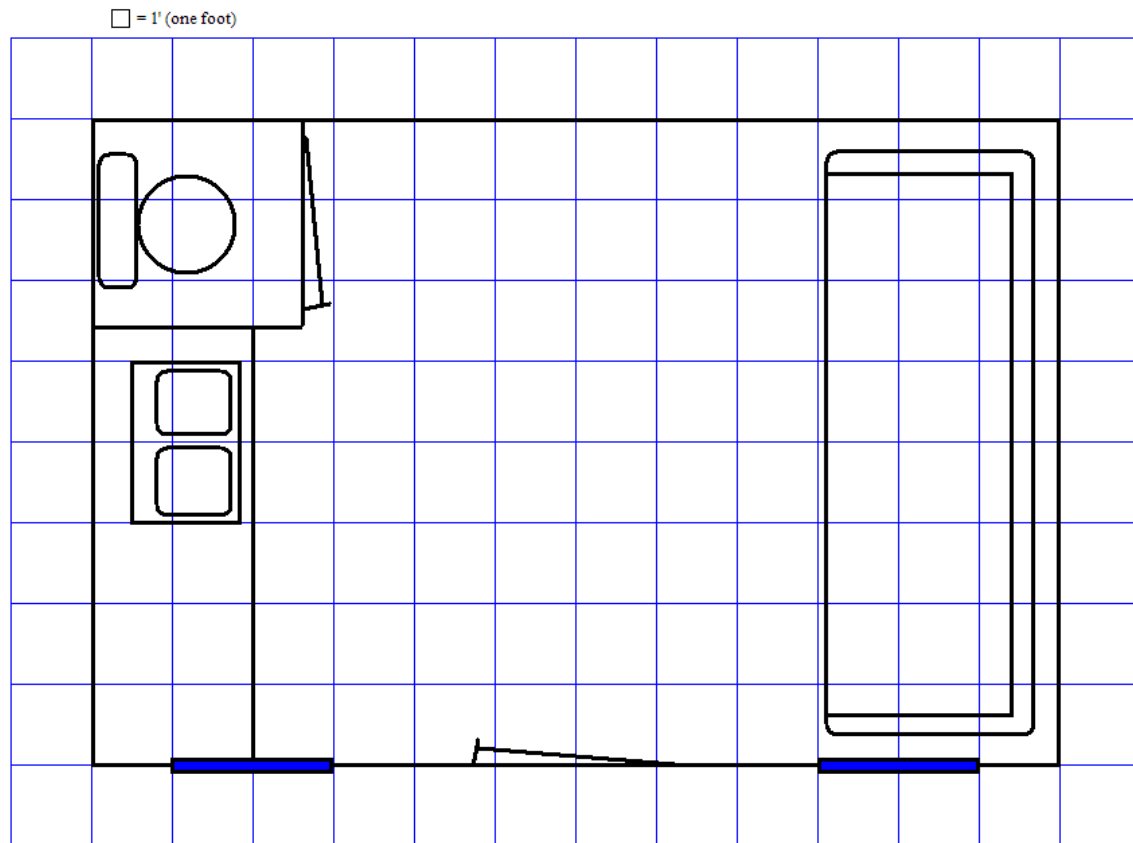
This is exactly what I want. It builds within my price range, nice design, and has a porch to put chairs on! This is a great weekend retreat, and is aesthetically pleasing too.

This is how we used to sleep 4 people in our tent when we went camping. As you can see there wasn't much room. There was no headroom as this tent was a 8'x9' hexagon tent that was 5'-6" tall in the center of the dome.



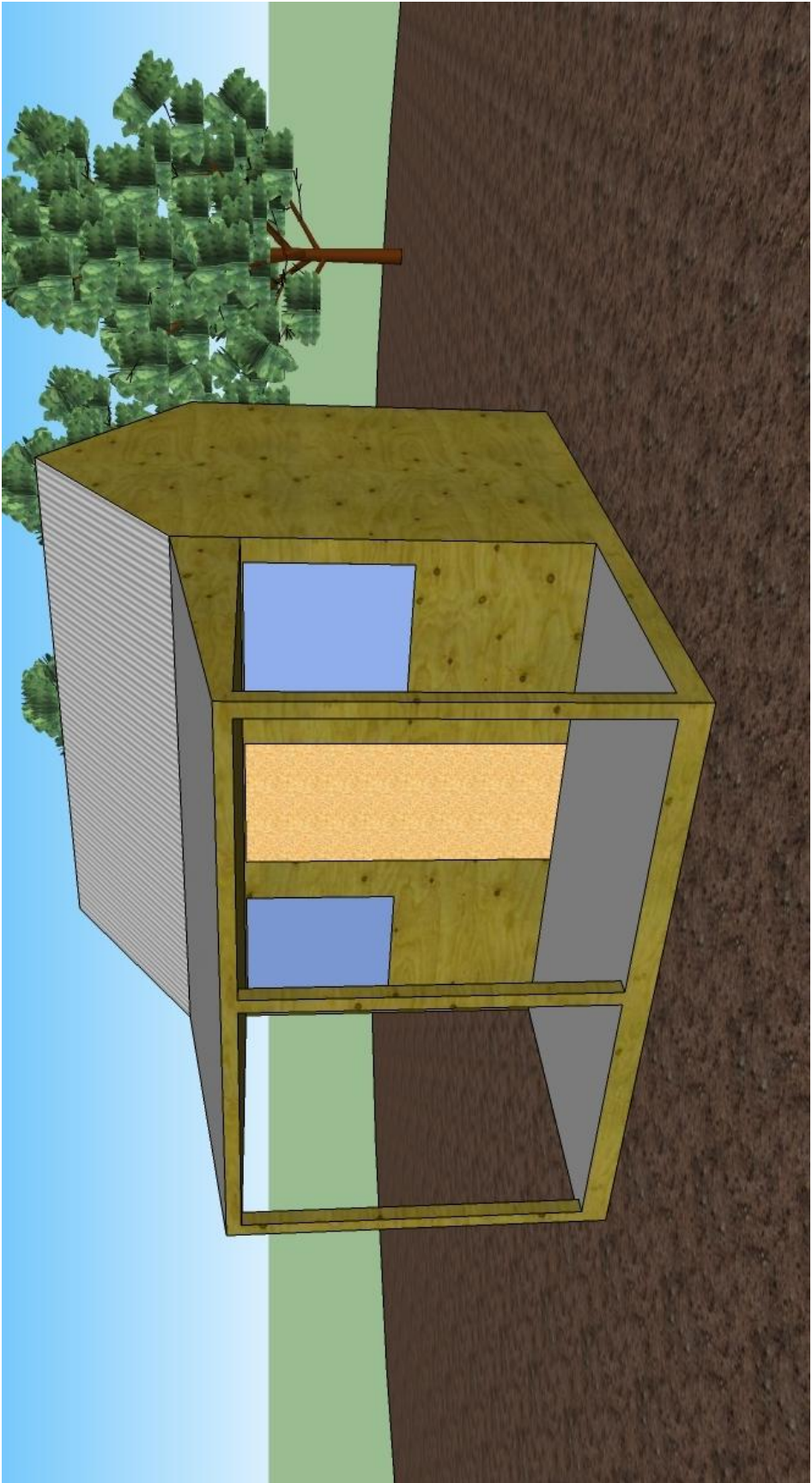
As you can see from the note in the image, this is how we slept 4 of us in a 8'x9' dome tent. Plus somewhere in there we also had our backpacks with clothes, and an ice chest that we used for a table. I'm 5'-9" tall, and I had to crouch down a little to be able to stand in here. While it worked for a while, I think that I am just done with the crouching down.

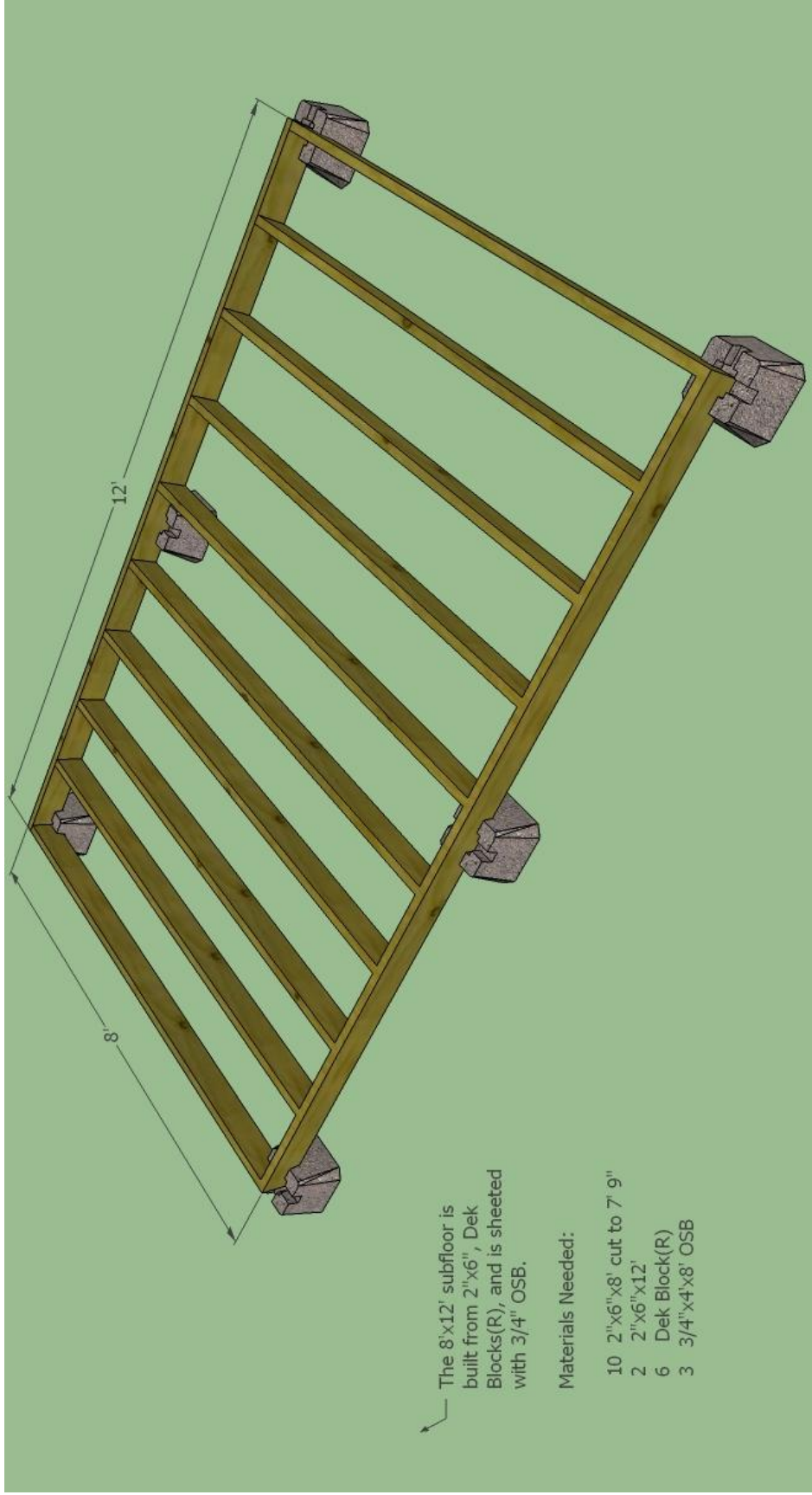
So since I have an available floor plan of what I have been using, now is time to build on that plan to better accommodate my family.



In an 8'x12' cabin, we will all fit. I can build in two small lofts, or a half loft and that will fit a queen size mattress. Either way I'll be done with tent camping. I'll have a small area to prepare sandwiches or cook on a camp stove. I'll have enough room to fit in a futon or bunk beds. There is enough room for a small table. There is a toilet inside. So all in all, it isn't too bad.

On the next few pages you'll see my plans.



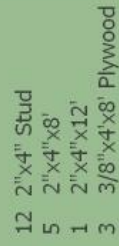


The 8'x12' subfloor is built from 2"x6", Dek Blocks(R), and is sheathed with 3/4" OSB.

Materials Needed:

- 10 2"x6"x8' cut to 7' 9"
- 2 2"x6"x12'
- 6 Dek Block(R)
- 3 3/4"x4'x8' OSB









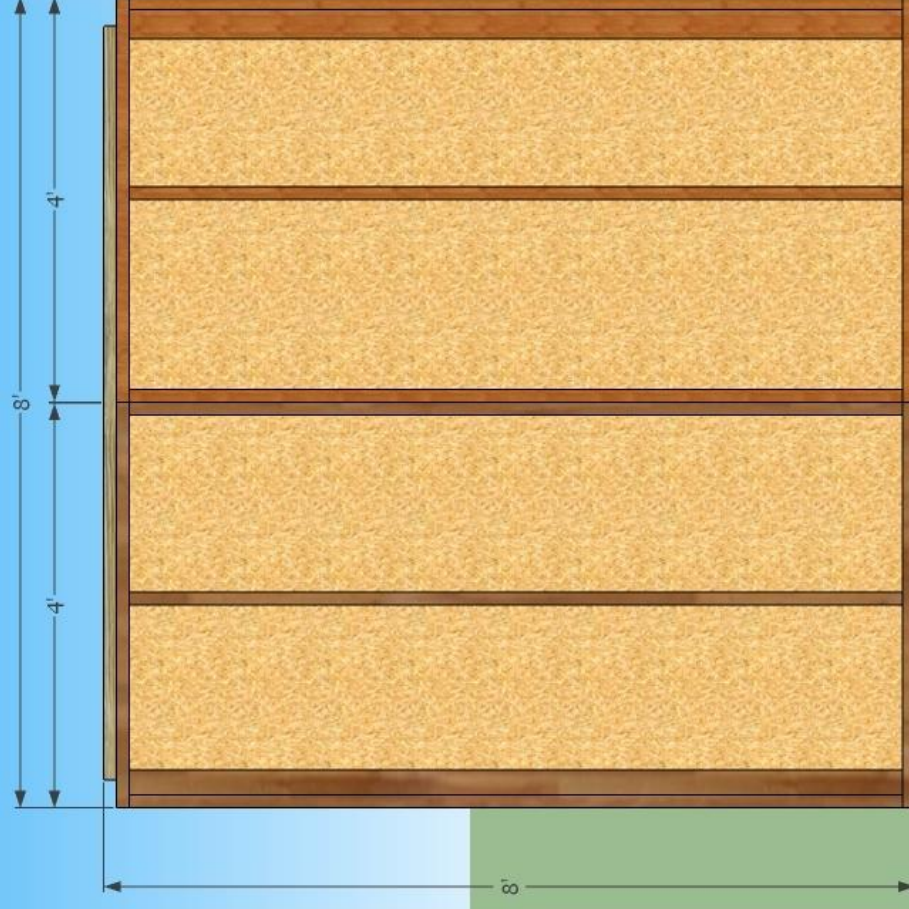
← This is the left wall that is built in 2 separate 4'x8' panels. This is done so that each panel will fit in my utility trailer and be assembled as a kit on site.

The top plate of the wall is a 2"x4"x7' 5" that is not attached until assembled at the build site. This is what will tie the 2 panels together on the build site to create the wall.

The color variance in studs is to illustrate the "panels". The light color is exterior paneling.

Materials Needed:

- 8 2"x4" Stud
- 3 2"x4"x8'
- 2 3/8"x4'x8' Plywood





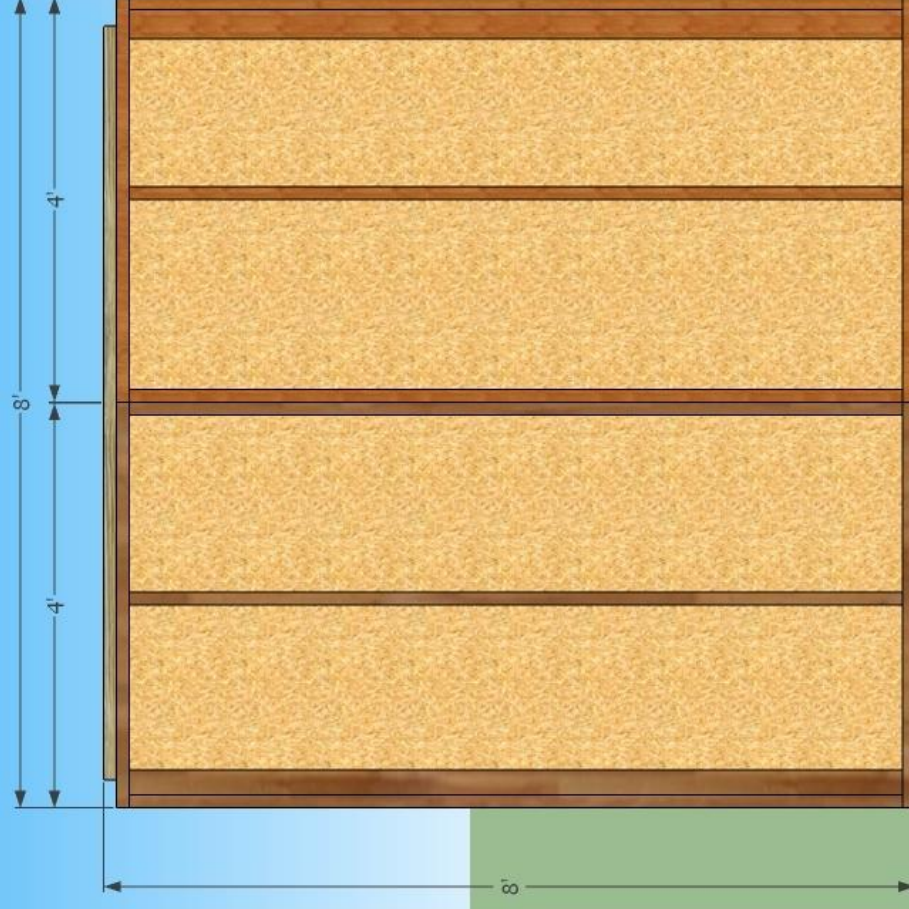
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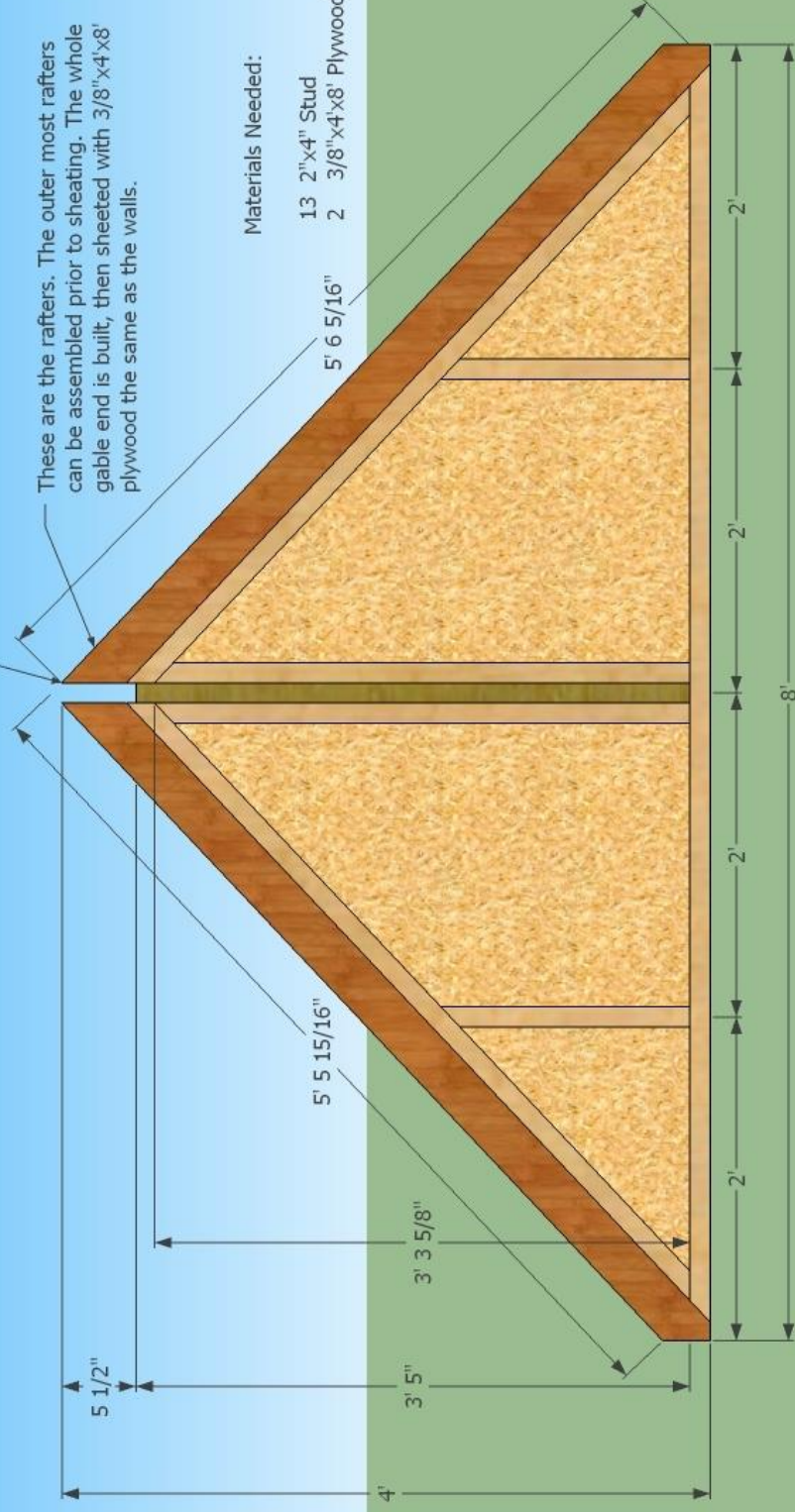
Gable ends. Build 2 of these.

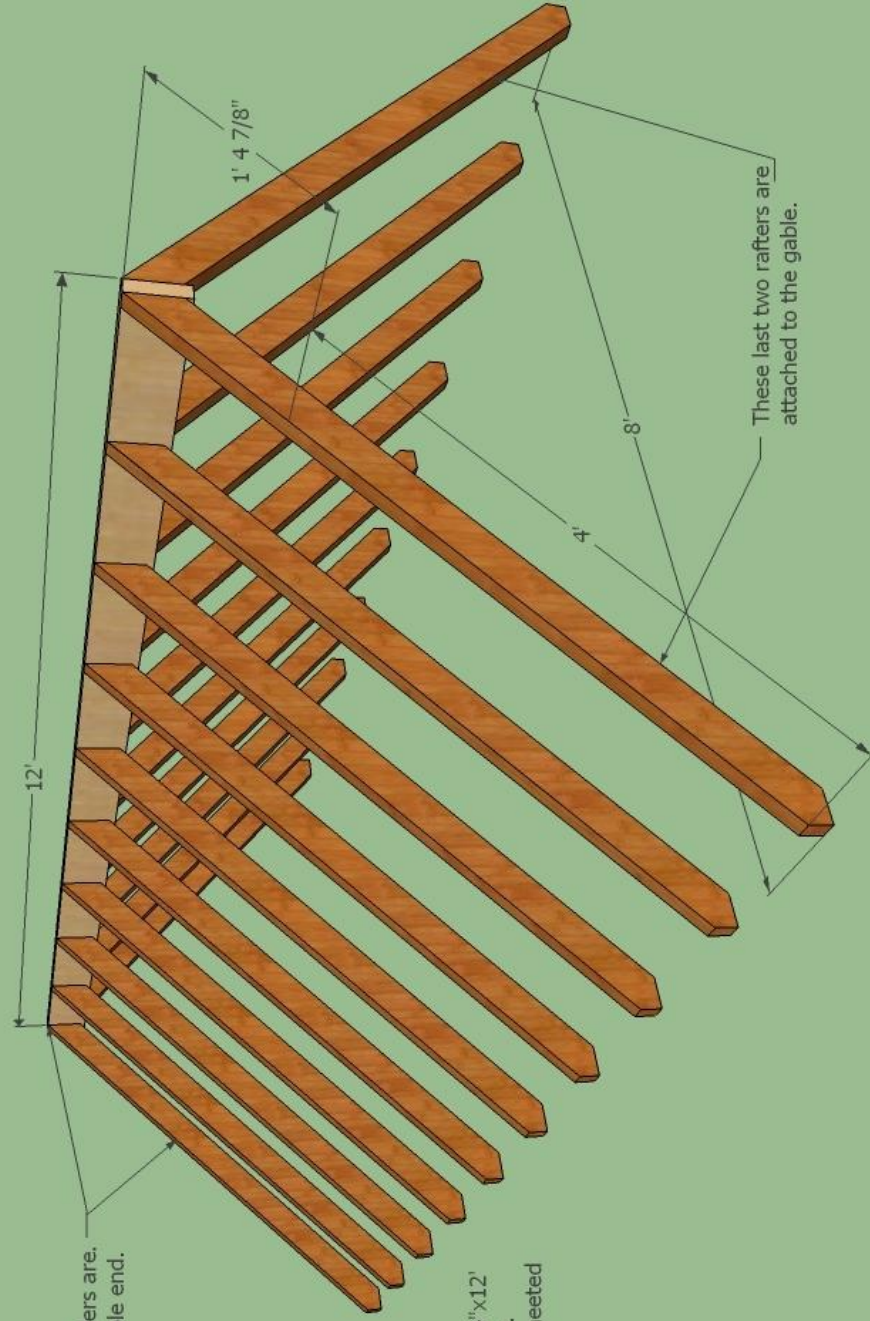
This is the space left for the ridge beam.

These are the rafters. The outer most rafters can be assembled prior to sheathing. The whole gable end is built, then sheathed with 3/8"x4'x8' plywood the same as the walls.

Materials Needed:

- 13 2"x4" Stud
- 2 3/8"x4'x8' Plywood





These last two rafters are attached to the gable end.

The roof joist is a 2"x6"x16'. The rafters are cut from 2"x4"x12' and hung from steel hangers. Once complete, the roof is sheathed with 5/8" OSB. Finish with your preferred roofing material.

#### Materials Needed:

- 1 2"x6"x16'
- 8 2"x4"x12'
- 5 3/8"x4"x8' Plywood
- 16 2"x4" Steel Hanger