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## In The Doghouse

Pets are part of my family. When it's cold outside, I let them in; when it's hot outside, I let them in. "They're dogs. They belong outside," says my husband. But as I look outside, the most irresistible puppy dog eyes persuade me. To keep to a minimum the muddy paw prints on the floor and the hair on my clothes, we decided on a comfortable solution that makes everyone in our family happy—a delightful doghouse. Lowe's is happy to provide this information as a [service](#) to you.



Take care of that other member of your family. Build your dog a place of his own.

Click a text link below to shop for that item.

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### Tools and Materials

#### Lumber

- 2 (10') 2 x 4 boards
- 1 (8') 2 x 4 spruce board
- 3 (23/32" thick) 4- x 8' BC pine ULX exterior plywood
- 2 (19/32" thick) 4- x 8' pine siding (T-111 at 4" o.c.)
- 2 (8') 2 x 2 spruce boards
- 1 (8') 1 x 2 spruce board

#### Millwork

- 2 (8') 1- x 1" prefinished outside corner moulding
- 2 (8') 5/8- x 15/8" shingle moulding
- 1 (8') 3/8- x 3/4" dentil edge moulding
- 2 (1/2- x 2 1/2") Victorian corner blocks
- 1 (8') 3/8- x 2 1/4" fluted case
- 1 embossed wood carving

#### Roofing

- 2 (20-year, 3-tab) asphalt roofing shingles (Slate)
- 1 (15-pound) asphalt roof felt

#### Fasteners

- 2 (1-pound) boxes 7/8" galvanized roofing nails
- 1 (1-pound) box 1 1/4" primeguard plus exterior screws
- 1 (1-pound) box 4-penny galvanized casing nails
- 1/2" zinc wood screws

#### Tools

- Miter box



Feat

O'Su

## Paint

- Severe Weather Exterior Primer
- House [paint](#) ⓘ (American Tradition, Montpelier Ashlar Gray #94-39A, exterior, semigloss)
- Trim paint (American Tradition, Montpelier Madison White, #94-37C, exterior, high gloss)

- [Sandpaper](#) ⓘ
- Clamp
- Drop cloth
- [Paintbrush](#) ⓘ
- Shingle utility knife
- [Tape measure](#) ⓘ
- Pencil
- Straightedge
- [Circular saw](#) ⓘ
- [Jig saw](#) ⓘ
- [Hammer](#) ⓘ
- [Drill](#) ⓘ

## Miscellaneous

- Super large pet door
- 2 (4-x 8") closable air conditioning vents
- Solar-powered hanging garden accent light
- 2 (5- x 3 1/2") black shelf brackets

**Skill level:** Advanced

**Rough cost estimate:**  
\$400

**Rough time estimate:** 3 days

## Frame Assembly

Building a raised platform allows the structure to sit far enough above the ground to prevent water from entering. If your ground is not level, use stakes as supports in order to make the doghouse level. You may want to try placing the house on cinder blocks as another support option.

Step 1: Align the tops of each support flush against the inside edges of the 4'-long front and back pieces of the platform, and nail them together.

Step 2: Nail the four 2 x 4s together to assemble the frame. (Note: The front and back pieces will overlap the ends of the side pieces.)

Step 3: For the floor, cut 3/4"-thick plywood to fit over the frame, making sure it is flush with the edges. Attach the plywood to the frame along each side using 1/4" screws to complete the base.

## Sides and Corner Bracing Assembly

Step 1: Using the diagrams provided, draw dimensions for front, back, and sides onto the sheets of grooved plywood. Carefully cut out the panels.

Step 2: Following the manufacturer's instructions, cut out an opening for the pet door on the front panel of the doghouse. (Note: Do not install the pet door.)

Step 3: Cut out holes for installing closable vents.

Step 4: Attach front and back panels to frame with 4-penny galvanized casing nails, making sure edges are flush.

Step 5: Attach the 2- x 2" corner braces flush against the short end of the front and back panels, making sure the mitered edge is at the top, facing toward the side pieces. Secure braces to front and back panels using 1 1/4" screws.

Step 6: Align one side piece with front and back of platform. To attach sides, nail bottom into frame, then into the 2- x 2" braces in the corners.

### **Add Ridge, Top Bracing and Roof**

Step 1: You now have a doghouse with no roof. Check the inside to make sure there are no exposed nails or screws.

Step 2: The ridge is placed in the middle to run across and support the ridge cap.

Step 3: Attach top braces. These will be used to connect the plywood roof to the rest of the structure.

Step 4: Attach the left panel of the roof. Secure it in place with 1 1/4" wood screws into the top bracing. Attach the right roof panel.

### **Install Corner Moulding, Vents, and Pet Door**

Step 1: Attach corner moulding to cover exposed corners.

Step 2: Install air vents to each side of the house to allow for extra airflow during the warmer months.

Step 3: Attach the dog door following manufacturer's instructions, making sure not to leave any exposed screws on the inside. (Add filler as needed to the opening of the pet door frame.)

### **Attach Final Trim, Roofing, and Brackets**

Step 1: Add an outdoor light and flowers to welcome visitors. Attach brackets using 1/2" screws. Hang a solar-powered light on one bracket, and a metal bucket with flowers on the other.

Step 2: Add decorative trim to the house and around the door.

Step 3: Paint your doghouse before adding shingles. Allow to dry.

Step 4: Add shingles to prevent your doghouse from leaking. They are inexpensive and very attractive. Gray (20-year, 3-tab) asphalt shingles were used for the doghouse shown here because they absorb less heat than darker shingles, keeping the

doghouse cool in the summer. When installing shingles, always start from the bottom and work up. Run the first row of roof shingles along the bottom edge of the roof. Place the next shingle directly on top of the previous row. Cap the ridge with cut shingle tabs to prevent leaking. (Note: Use short roofing nails, making sure they don't protrude on the inside.) [Click here](#) for more detailed illustrations.

### A Place to Call Home

The main purpose of a doghouse is to provide a dog with shelter from the weather, but there are some things you can do to make your pet's new place a little more like home.

1. Use paint, trim, and roof shingles that match your home.
2. Install indoor/outdoor carpet on the floor to keep your pup warm and comfortable.
3. Add a solar-powered light outside the door.
4. Add vents to create extra airflow.
5. Landscape around the house using gravel and mulch.

### Cut List

[Click here](#) for detailed plans (Acrobat PDF format)

If you do not have the free Acrobat reader, [click here](#) to download.

Part	Material	Size	Quantity	Notes
supports	2 x 4	8'	4	#2 SYP
frame front/back	2 x 4	4'	2	#2 SYP
frame sides	2 x 4	3'-9"	2	#2 SYP
floor	(3/4"-thick) 4- x 8' plywood panel	4' square	1	CDX plywood
front	19/32"-thick) 4' x 8' pine siding	<a href="#">see illustration</a>	1	T-111grooved 4" o.c.
back	19/32"-thick) 4' x 8' pine siding	<a href="#">see illustration</a>	1	T-111grooved 4" o.c.
sides	19/32"-thick) 4' x 8' pine siding	4' x 2' 9-7/8"	2	T-111grooved 4" o.c.
corner brace	2 x 2	2' 6-3/4"	4	miter 30-degree angle at one end; spruce
ridge	2 x 4	48"	1	spruce
top brace	2 x 2	2' 1-1/8"	4	miter 30-degree angle off ends; spruce
roof decking	(3/4"-thick) 4- x 8' plywood panel	4' 9-1/4" x 2' 8"	2	CDX plywood
corners	corner moulding	2' 10-1/4"	4	miter 30-degree angle at one end
moulding	dentil edge	miter to fit	4	optional
moulding	shingle	miter to fit	4	optional

