DIY Storage Chest

My husband was in dire need of a storage solution for his 5.11 and Maxpedition backpacks. For those who have no clue to what they are, think Military Tactical bags however, in an array of sizes. These bags have been sitting on the bottom of our closet floor, essentially taking up the whole space forever. He has a different bag size for all needs, but when not in use, they need a better spot to go. We decided to make a Storage Chest that would fit into part of the bottom of the closet, however if taken out still looks great and could be its own furniture piece!

Due to the items that this chest is holding, I went with more of a military style look. However you can paint it absolutely anything you want. Our daughter saw the finished product and asked for a purple one (to match her room) to go in her own closet.

For this project I used all scrap pieces that were laying around. I had actually made a Freestanding Wine Cooler cabinet for my mother a while back but due to downsizing she couldn't use it anymore. We took that apart and used about 3/4 of the wood from that to build this cabinet. The only things we however did need to buy were hinges and paint.

Tools you Need:

Saw

Drill

Finish Nail Gun

Sander

Clamps

Pencil

Measuring Tape

Safety Glasses

Gloves

Paint Brush

Shop Towels

Materials Needed for this Box

Wood – Determine the size that you are making the box so that you know how much lumber you need

Hinges – 2 are needed

Rope for the handles

Paint *(**TIP:** One sample container of the BEHR Marquee paint from Home Depot will be more than enough)*

Stain

Wood Glue

Steps to Building the Chest

1. First of all, you need to determine the size for your chest. However if you aren't sure what to do, think of the items going into it and where it is going. For example – For me the size was determined by two factors. The length and width were determined by my closet size (where its going). Then the height was determined by what the chest is going to be used for. In this case, the height was determined by the height of the backpacks.

2. Once you know your height you can cut your boards for the base down to size.

3. Next you need to attach the sides and the bottom together using finishing nails, but don't forget the wood glue too!

4. Now its time for the top. For myself, I had to make it using 2 pieces of wood which will probably be the case for you all too unless you purchase a large piece of hobby wood pine.

5. Finally it is time to decorate! Decide on how you want it to look! Stain the top of the chest to the colour you want (We used Dark Walnut) and also paint the exterior the colour you chose

6. When the paint and stain have dried you can attach the hinges and do any other details you chose. For our chest it involved painting on the star, and adding rope handles.

7. One thing I also decided to add at the end was furniture pads to the bottom so it would not scratch my hardwood floors. It is also a great idea to put them in between the chest lid and the base to stop it from making a large bang when it closed.

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DIY Pallet Wood Shed for Nothing!

DIY Pallet Wood Shed

Building a Wood Shed out of pallets is a inexpensive DIY project, but does take a fair amount of time. The disassembly of the pallets is the most time consuming part, but it is worth the extra time. Why you may ask? Well. this project didn’t cost me anything in materials. You can find companies tossing pallets all over the place, it just means a scavenger hunt. The only thing you would really need to purchase would be screws if you do not already have any and shingles if you can’t find any for free. The shingles I used, I got from going to a person’s house in my neighborhood where they were getting their roof redone. The guys doing the work saved some of the

shingles they were taking off and let me have them.

Tools Needed

Circular Saw

Hammer

Pencil

Drill & Screw Bit

Measuring Tape

Safety Glasses

The How To:

1. First of all, you are going to need to go on that scavenger hunt looking for the pallets that will work for this project. I made sure that I made sure that I found 2 identical strong pallets for the base because all your weight will be on those. Also you want to find pallets which had 2×4’s for the main legs that were 69″ in length because these 2×4’s are needed for the main walls of the shed. (See the image in Step 4 for good pallets for the base)

2. Once you have found the pallets, it’s time to take them apart. There are tools out there that were made specifically for this job (its essential a pry bar) . I still use a good old hammer though, saves me the money of having to buy this

tool until I find i’m going to use it often enough. However, if you do want to purchase one it it is about $100.00 plus shipping. Keep in mind that as a result of using the hammer instead you will break some of the weaker boards that are nailed really well, sadly its just unavoidable.

3. Level out where you are going to put your Wood Shed therefore ensuring a good firm base.

4. Once you have your area leveled out attach your 2 base pallets with a Piece of 2×4 and lay it out in place.

3. Build up your 6 Support Wall Studs. Three in the back of the shed and three in the front.

4. Make the start to your roof Using 2×4’s in between the studs, as well as the the frame on one side for the Kindling Shelf.

5. Next you want to attach the Roof slats, kindling shelf slates, and the face trim around the rood

6. Use 2×4’s as Diagonal supports between the studs. As a result you will notice a huge difference in strength of the shed after doing this.

7. Finally its time to Use the slats up the walls.

8. I recommend looking for shingles to use or spending the approx $15.00 and buy a bundle of them because they will make it that much more water resistant.

Finally, there you have it! You’re all done but most of all, it probably didn’t cost you anything or so very little.