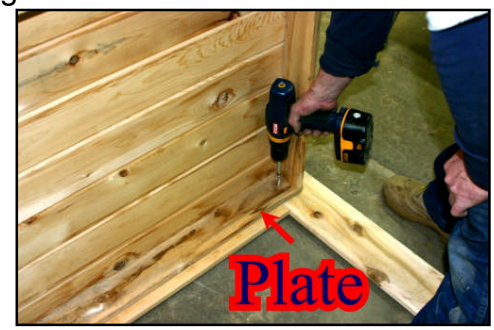
# Freedom Greenhouse Base Preparation Instructions

The Freedom Greenhouse is built in a woodworking workshop in Maine using the highest quality Eastern Maine Cedar and other premium components. Experienced carpenters and woodworkers assemble each greenhouse in modular sections that are then crated and shipped to our customers. The on-site assembly can't begin until an adequate base is prepared to anchor the greenhouse to

**Caution: – Before beginning, make sure there are no overhead power lines that could come in contact with you or the greenhouse nor any underground power, water, or gas lines that you could contact when working on a base.**

## Groundwork

The ground that the Freedom Greenhouse sits on does not have to be level, but the base for the greenhouse does need to be both square and level. The other requirement of the base is that it provides a method of anchoring the greenhouse against strong winds. Any form of base is acceptable provided it has the three requirements of being square, level, and provides a method of anchoring the greenhouse. The bottom of each greenhouse has a 1"x 4" plate (cedar board) on all four sides. A very simple base can be made of pressure treated or composite 2x4's or 4x4's forming a perimeter framework the same size as the greenhouse. It can be anchored to the ground with steel rods driven thru them or some other means of anchoring. The greenhouse plate is attached to the base with wood screws (included with the greenhouse). A concrete slab or concrete footing is another base option that can also help hold the sun's heat to help maintain warmer temperatures overnight. If concrete is going to be used consider how to anchor the greenhouse to the concrete. If possible, set anchors into the wet concrete leaving them at least 1 ½" above the concrete. The anchors should be set inside the outer edge of the concrete 1½-2" (assuming the concrete has the same outside dimensions as the greenhouse). There should be 2 anchors on each side of the greenhouse and they should be placed approximately 1 foot away from the outside corners of the greenhouse.

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**Sloped ground:** On sloped ground, there are a couple options.

1. The rear end of the greenhouse (opposite the door end) can be embedded into an embankment up to about 2 feet. We can provide extra reinforcement inside the greenhouse end wall if it is request (there may be an additional charge).
2. A level wood deck could be built, and the greenhouse attached to the deck. (top photo) Gaps between the deck boards should be kept to a minimum so cold air does not blow up through the floor.

There is no limit to the kind of base you use, provided the greenhouse base is square, level, and anchored.

**Tips –** If this is your first experience with leveling a building, here are some tips:

1. Use any 18" or longer bubble level or laser level.
2. Check the ground along the four sides of the site where the greenhouse is being placed and determine if the highest points can be lowered by removing sod, soil, or rocks. If it can then use a spade and remove the high spots and if it makes sense put that material in the low spots.
3. When the ground is leveled to within ½" or so, the boards or blocks that are to be the base can be placed and squared. To fine tune the leveling tamp down the high spots with a sledge hammer or raise up the low spots with shims or sand or soil under the base.
4. Re –check for squareness by using a tape and measuring from corner to diagonal corner and then the opposite two corners. Adjust for square until the two different diagonal measurements are within ¼" of each other.
5. Anchor the base with any type of anchor that will withstand the expected winds for your area.

**Sizes and dimensions:**

| Greenhouse size width x length | Base outside width (gable ends) | Base outside length |
|---|---|---|
| **8'x8'** | **96"** | **93"** |
| **8'x12'** | **96"** | **142"** |
| **12'x8'** | **142"** | **93"** |
| **12'x12'** | **142"** | **142"** |
| **12'x18'** | **142"** | **211"** |
| **12'x24'** | **142"** | **282.5"** |

All bases are 3 1/2" wide plates. Inside greenhouse dimesions are 7" less than base outside dimensions. Greenhouse outside dimesions are 2" greater than base outside dimensions. Sidewalls are 48" high, roof pitch is 12 (45 degrees)

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