

Summer Mission:

How to Build a Den



Top Tips

- If you are building your den outside, remember to respect the environment, do not snap branches off living trees or leave any litter behind
- Always ask before making a den inside at home
- Make sure an adult is supervising your den building and knows where you are

Building a survival shelter or a 'den' is an important part of Army training. If you are on a mission far from home and in the wild, knowing how to make a shelter from simple materials is an essential bit of knowledge. Have a go at following our simple steps to make your own den, either inside at home or out in your garden or local park.

How to build a den outside

There are lots of different ways to build an outdoor den. You could even have a go using smaller twigs and leaves to make a mini den for your favourite toy.



1. Wherever you are, the first thing you need to do is find a good tree to start with. Look for one which is sturdy, maybe with a few nooks and crannies. This will be the base of your den.
2. Once you have your tree, see if you can gather fallen leaves and branches to lean up against your tree- this will create the walls. Imagine you are trying to make a
3. When you are happy with your den, why not climb inside?
4. How does it feel when you are inside - what can you see, hear or smell?

pyramid type of shape. You can fill in the gaps with twigs and leaves and even mud!

How to build a den inside

If you don't fancy building a den outside, why not make one from the comfort of your own home. You will need two chairs and a bed sheet or a blanket.



1. Choose a spot inside to build your den, will it be in your bedroom or by the sofa?
2. Place two chairs about a metre apart. Make sure the backs of the chairs are facing inwards. They will form the base of your den.
3. Drape your blanket or sheet over the chairs, this will make the roof to your den.
4. Climb inside, you can add extra pillows or a blanket to make it nice and cosy.