

Building a Simple Sukkah

The easiest way to build a sukkah is with cement blocks, 2 x 4 standards, and improvised walls. Remember that the number of walls required is related to the forms of the Hebrew letters of the word sukkah. [*Samech*--four walls, *kaf*--three walls, *hey*--two and a half walls]. All of these [numbers of walls] are permissible. If you can use the back wall of a house or garage as one of the walls, do so. Stack 3 cement blocks in each corner and insert 7-foot 2 x 4's into the air holes of the blocks. Connect the 2 x 4's with 1x 2's across the middle and the top. Stretch cloth (or nail 1/4-inch plywood, if you can afford it) over the frame and one wall is complete. One wall can serve as the entrance if covered with cloth on a wire track. Place some 1 x 1's running in both directions on the roof and cover that with rushes or pine boughs.

The entire roof must be made of organic material. Remember to let the stars shine through! A sample sukkah might be a 7-foot cube, for which the following materials would be necessary:

12 cement blocks

4 pieces of 2" x 2" x 7-1/2'

7 pieces of 1" x 2" x 7-1/2'

8 pieces of 1" x 1" x 8' (crosspieces)

enough cloth or plywood to cover 3 walls

cloth drape for entrance wall

nails

binding twine

greens for roofing

You might want the challenge of not using nails, and binding with rope all joints. It can be done and a fine binding is a beautiful thing to see.

These instructions were taken from The Jewish Catalog: A Do-It-Yourself Kit, edited by Richard Siegel, Michael Strassfeld and Susan Strassfeld, published by the Jewish Publication Society.