

The Alyth @ Home Guide to Building Your Sukkah!

As we cannot come together as a community in the Alyth sukkah this year, we have put together this guide to building your own sukkah at home.

Where do I build my sukkah?

The sukkah is a dwelling outside the home, often translated as a booth, or hut. It should be easy to get to from your home so it could be built in a porch, garden, balcony or even on a rooftop.



The Walls

The walls of the sukkah may be made of any material, but must be sturdy enough to withstand an ordinary wind (Code of Jewish Law, Orach Chayim 630: 10)

Your sukkah must have at least 3 walls. The structure can be totally free standing or you can use existing walls of your home or a shed as part of it. The frame can be wood, metal, or any sturdy material and the walls themselves can be anything too. Popular choices are wood, tent fabric, or tarps.

Many people decorate the walls with foliage and pictures.



One of the more surreal suggestions comes from Sukkah 23a, in which Rabbi Meir and Rabbi Yehuda disagreed over whether you can use an animal for one wall. Rabbi Yehuda deemed an elephant fit for use as a wall but like Rabbi Meir, we don't recommend this.

The Roof

The roof should be made from s'chach - matter that has grown from the ground but has been detached from its original roots. So branches that are still attached to a tree would not count as being part of the roof. You can use any kind of leafy branches or wood. Popular choices include bamboo poles, reeds, pine tree branches, palm branches and you can even buy mats designed specifically to create your sukkah roof. Whatever you use, it should provide more shade than light in your sukkah and you should be able to see the stars through it at night. Many people hang fruit and vegetables from the roof as decoration.

The Mitzvah

The mitzvah is to eat in the sukkah. This can be fulfilled by making kiddush in the sukkah or you can eat full meals in it and some even choose to sleep out in it. There are also a host of biblical Jewish figures to welcome as symbolic guests in the custom known as ushpizin.