

# Green Woodworking Basics

This playbook describes the fundamental steps for green woodworking, a traditional craft involving the use of fresh, unseasoned timber. It covers the basic actions from selecting timber to the finishing touches on a greenwood piece.

## Step 1: **Select Timber**

Choose fresh cut, unseasoned timber that suits your project. Look for wood with straight grain, free of knots, and any other defects. Preferred tree species include willow, oak, and ash due to their workability and strength.

## Step 2: **Store Correctly**

Store the timber in a cool, shaded area to slow down the drying process and prevent cracking. Stack the wood off the ground and cover with a tarp if necessary to protect it from the elements.

## Step 3: **Rough Shape**

Using tools like axes or drawknives, rough out the basic shape of your piece. Work along the grain and remove excess material to approximate the final form.

**Step 4: Splitting allows for following the wood grain more naturally, reducing the risk of weakening the structure of the final product. Use**

## **wedges and a mallet to carefully split larger sections into manageable pieces.**

Split Wood

### **Step 5: Refine Shape**

Switch to finer tools such as chisels and gouges to further refine the shape. At this stage, your goal is to get closer to the final contour and surface finish of the piece.

### **Step 6: Carve Details**

With the general shape established, use specialized carving tools to add any intricate details. Pay attention to the wood's grain and moisture content to achieve the best result.

### **Step 7: Dry Properly**

Allow the shaped wood to dry slowly to avoid cracks and splits. This can take several days to weeks depending on the thickness and type of wood. A controlled environment with a consistent temperature and humidity is ideal for this stage.

### **Step 8: Final Shaping**

Once the wood is dry, perform any final shaping and smoothing. Use rasps, files, and sandpaper to refine the surface and edges, preparing the piece for finishing.

### **Step 9: Apply Finish**

Select a finish that will enhance the beauty and protect the integrity of the wood. Options include oils, waxes, or sealants. Apply as directed, typically with a cloth or brush, ensuring even coverage.

# **General Notes**

## **Tool Maintenance**

Keep all tools sharp and clean for easier work and better results. Regularly hone the edges and store them properly to prevent rusting and damage.

## **Safety First**

Always wear appropriate personal protective equipment such as gloves and eye protection when working with wood and tools. Ensure that your work area is secure and well-lit.

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