

Placing the Sill Plate:

Tires and earth make a terrific load-bearing foundation, but they are lousy at holding nails. And since you intend to attach something to this foundation (whether you knew it or not), you need some place to nail it to. Hence, the sill plate.

Since the sill plate is the most likely bit of wood on this entire project to get wet - how about we use pressure-treated wood for this? You aren't using too much, and the extra couple of bucks will be well worth it should you be faced with having to try to replace that bit of wood should it be damaged in the future. Trust me, you don't want to do that.

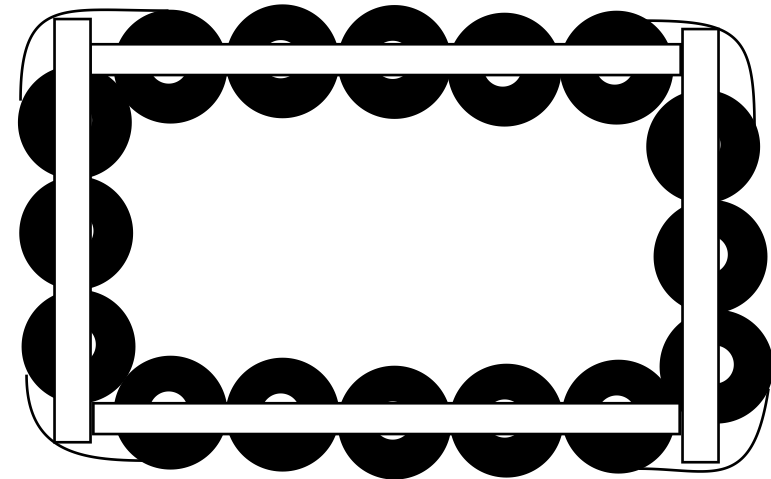
The first step is to cover the tires in a nice layer of plastic. Since you have your beautiful French Drain fully dug around the foundation - you might want a large enough bit of plastic so it covers the ditch (which is really what a French Drain is), the outside wall of the tires, up over the top of the tires and down over the inside wall of the tires. Plastic that is 10 feet wide should do the trick.

Remember, this building is going to be 12' x 8' - so the perimeter will be 40 feet in length (see, 7th grade geometry was good for



something after all). The tire portion of the foundation will actually be a little bit bigger than this - so a roll of heavy duty plastic, 10 feet wide and 50 feet long should do the trick.

After the plastic is in place (and weighted down with a couple of strategically placed stones), you are ready to place the sill plate boards. Remember how, when we were placing and pounding the tires, I said that you don't have to be too careful, because there is a lot of room for error. I mentioned (honestly I did) that you would be placing an 8 inch wall on a 2 foot base (the tires). Well that is what we are about to do.



That said, here is where we need to be a bit careful. You want to make sure that your sill plate is really square. You can ensure this by measuring the diagonals once again (look back on page 11 if you have forgotten how to do this).

Attaching the Sill Plate with Rebar:

Now we need to somehow fasten these boards to the tire foundation. To do this we use those 3' bits of rebar I cleverly included in the list of supplies you will need. We will use the rebar as if they are 3-foot long nails.