

You CAN Build YOUR OWN HOME

A guide to options
for owner-builders.



Photo provided by Oregon Yurtworks, LLC

Stick-frame Kits

From the Sears Roebuck kit homes of the early 20th century to prepackaged stick-frame kits available at your local building center, there's something appealing about having everything to build your home in one package, ready to simply put together and move in.



OREGON YURTWORKS

Because the outside walls bear all the weight of the roof, yurts provide open interior spaces.

Photo provided by Oregon Yurtworks, LLC

Perhaps it's the adventure; it may be a notion that all the parts will fit together neatly (without any extra pieces left over). Regardless of the reasons for the emotional appeal, there are kit homes available for almost all styles of homes. See "Resources," above.

Depending on your experience with various materials and processes, do your best to realistically assess your skill level and the time commitment necessary to build a home yourself. If you're skilled in a particular area (such as framing, roofing, plumbing or electrical work) you might choose to handle that aspect of construction yourself while hiring someone to do the rest.

Almost anyone can save money by helping with construction site cleanup. You also can quickly learn the skills necessary to paint walls, stain cabinets and varnish trim. Or maybe you're comfortable with all aspects of construction except one. In that case, you can farm out that part of the project.

The broadest range of styles is accessible to those with mid- to high-level building skills and some construction experience. Especially if you've hired help or found a crew of skilled volunteers, constructing a kit home has the potential to go more quickly than building your own house from scratch. Kits are also available for log homes, timber-framed homes, SIP-built homes and yurts. 🌲

GREEN/NATURAL BUILDING DIRECTORY

We have an online directory of companies offering DIY building materials and that have experience with green/natural building. If your business offers DIY materials or green building options, we'd like you to sign up—especially if you offer DIY kits with instructions. Visit www.MotherEarthNews.com and click on "Green/Natural Building" under "Directories."