**How to build a treehouse**

A perfect place to play, hide and watch wildlife...

**You will need:**
- lots of friends and some adults to help
- 25 poles of strong wood
- 5-10 cm [not old, light, dry or brittle]
- 2 metres
- some solid trees (or extra poles to build ‘tripod trees’)
- 30 metres of rope
- scissors/penknife
- loppers/pruning saw
- patience!

**1.** Find 4 solid trees about 2 metres apart

   If you have no trees...

**2.** Practise 3 different knots:
- square lashing
- figure of eight lashing
- clove hitch

**3.** Choose the 4 strongest poles to form the frame. Tie a clove hitch onto each end of a pole, and square lash it to 2 tree trunks. Repeat to build a square frame.

**4.** Lay remaining poles side-by-side across frame, securing each one with a square lash. Then personalise with ladders, handrails and swings.

You can make 4 ‘tripod trees’ instead...
- lash 3 poles of wood together with a figure of eight lashing knot
- stand upright and pull untied end apart.

Check your treehouse for cracks, breaks, wear and tear. It should last up to 2 years.

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**Useful websites for knots:** [www.scoutbase.org.uk](http://www.scoutbase.org.uk) and [www.animatedknots.com](http://www.animatedknots.com)

If you are building on land that doesn't belong to you, remember to get permission from the landowner first.