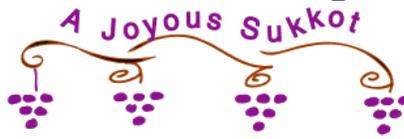


The Basics of Building a Sukkah



Jews celebrate the holiday of Sukkot by eating, entertaining guests, and sometimes sleeping, in a Sukkah. The Sukkah is a simple hut or booth, and building one can be considered part of the celebration.

Sukkot can vary depending on climate, budget and ability. The sides can be constructed of any lightweight material as long as it is strong enough to withstand the wind. The walls of the sukkah should not be more than 35 feet high and the floor or bottom of the sukkah should not be more than 10-12 inches off the ground.

The most important element of the sukkah is the roof, the skhakh. It must be made of plants which cannot be used for food and which are detached from the ground. The covering must be thick enough so that the shade in the sukkah is greater than the sunlight -- there should be no gaps greater than a few inches -- yet you must be able to see the stars. A heavy rain should be able to penetrate the covering. The foliage can be laid on a lattice of wooden slats.

The sukkah should be decorated, which can be a fun family activity. Some families use fruit and vegetables from the harvest. Many people also pin up New Year's cards and posters on the walls.

Kits for building a sukkah are available locally at:

- **Kolbo Fine Judaica**, 437 Harvard St., Brookline
- **The Israel Book Shops**, 410 Harvard St., Brookline and 1106 N. Main St., Randolph
- **National Lumber**, 15 Needham St., Newton