



Tip No. 9. How to Choose a Greenhouse

1. First of all, decide what you want to **use your greenhouse for**. Growing Seeds, tomatoes in the summer, over wintering, specialist orchid growing etc.
2. Decide the **right location for your greenhouse** – near to your vegetable garden, allotment, ornamental, or possibly a lean to onto your house or shed. How much sun or shade will it get. How easy will it be to get electricity for light and heat to it?
3. Decide what **type of material you want it to be made of** – wood, brick half base, aluminium, metal, plastic frame (bubble type), glass or poly tunnel type.
4. **Get your measurements right**, width, height, length – what will suit your space - they do vary in sizes and styles/shapes – hexagonal, height of frame, ventilation, double or single doors. Is it extendable if you really get hooked?
5. **Think about what you need to put inside** – staging for plants, heaters, space for potting up etc. What height will your plants grow to? Height of Ornamental trees you might be over wintering. Height of canes for tomatoes etc.
6. **Explore the various providers** and do your homework – what do you get for your money. Here are some to start with.

Vitavia.co.uk 01473 218100 – aluminium

Hartley-botanical.co.uk 0800 783 8083 - bespoke classy aluminium

Gabrialash.com 01829 271 890 – wooden

Thegreenhousepeople.co.uk 0800 093 3403 - accessories

Kedergreenhouse.co.uk 01889 562 610 - polly tunnel type

Edenverandas.co.uk 0800 107 2727 - glass rooms and verandas onto houses

Alitex.co.uk 01730 826900. Quality Modern Victorian style aluminium

7. **Shop around** – make use of trade shows such as the RHS Malvern, Chelsea and Hampton Court to see suppliers, models and maybe you might pick up an ex demo like me. Visit your local garden centre or DIY store who have displays.
8. Make sure you understand what you need to do to **get it installed properly** – could you do it yourself or will the supplier do it or do you need to get in a landscaper.