



WOODWORKING PROJECT AREA



Woodworking is a valuable skill for a hobby, household repairs, or even a career. Learn about the types of wood, uses for various kinds of wood, how to make connections and joints, safety tips, and exhibit ideas from the very simple to the impressive!

Ideas for Project Area Learning

- Identify the tools and needs for your work area.
- Learn safety rules, tools safety settings, and how to use safety gear.
- Identify what different woods look and feel like.
- Understand how to use a variety of hand tools.
- Learn how to connect wood using glue and nails.
- Finish wood projects by sanding and painting.
- Learn how to use right-hand tools.
- Determine which woods are good for a product.
- Learn to cut and measure angles.
- Learn the importance of proper sanding and finish application.
- Discover joining, clamping, and connecting techniques.
- Use stain to emphasize the grain of the wood.
- Understand the difference between wood, laminates, and veneers.
- Correctly and safely use power tools.
- Explore woodworking careers and entrepreneurial opportunities.
- Identify the functions of a selection of woodworking tools.
- Compare the different types of hinges.
- Learn to enlarge scale-drawn woodworking plans.
- Compare the different grades of plywood.
- Evaluate exotic and veneer woods.
- Learn how to create inlays and overlays.
- Test various adhesives for specific uses.

APPLY WHAT YOU'VE LEARNED

Communication

- Conduct a wood finishing seminar.
- Prepare an exhibit that explains the types of woods and the best applications for each.
- Give a safety demonstration for woodworking tool usage.

Civic Engagement

- Build toys out of wood for a homeless shelter.
- Make a bench or other product and donate to a charity.
- Join a building project with an organization such as Habitat for Humanity.

Leadership

- Conduct a basic building workshop for younger club members.
- Organize your club to assist older community members winterize their home.
- Be a project helper for the younger members in the project area.

Entrepreneurship

- Write a business plan for a custom furniture shop.
- Design and sell house or porch decorations.
- Provide furniture fixing services.



Goal Setting and Record Keeping

Goal setting is an ongoing process that guides your project area learning. Having goals is like having a road map to show you how to get you to where you want to go. Record keeping is also an ongoing process and another important life skill. In 4-H, you are encouraged to select from a variety of record keeping formats to meet your own personal needs and your preferred learning style. Keeping records of your learning experiences helps you determine how well you met your goals. Goal setting and record keeping improve your skills in organization, communication, planning, and evaluating.

Iowa 4-H Event Opportunities

- Participate in **county and state fair** exhibit classes.
- Check with your local county 4-H youth development staff to see if there are special events or **workshops in your county** that you want to attend to learn more about your project areas.
- Iowa 4-H members in grades 9–12 can apply for **State Project Area Awards** at State Recognition Day. Applications are open December through January.
- Meet young people from around the state who have completed grades 8–12, and share your interests at the **Iowa 4-H Youth Conference** held at Iowa State University in late June.

Share Your Learning With an Exhibit

- Create a poster on safety precautions when working with wood and tools.
- Develop an exhibit on woodworking tools and what they are used for.
- Make an exhibit on various wood fasteners, where they would be used, and why.
- Create an exhibit on various woodworking techniques.
- Make an exhibit evaluating the merits of different joinery.
- Develop an exhibit on furniture repair.
- Make an exhibit on green woodworking and sustainable wood types.
- Create an exhibit comparing wood to synthetic replacements.
- Make and finish a piece of furniture.
- Build a tack box for your show animal project.
- Make a toy train set out of wood.

CAREER CONNECTIONS

- **Mill workers** cut and stock wood products, and instruct to clients on how to install products.
- **Finish carpenters** trim and complete final wood products, install windows and doors, and make adjustments to products as necessary.
- **Contractors** hire and work with workers, provide materials, receive permits, and oversees the completion of buildings.
- **Furniture designers** sketch plans for different furniture pieces and develop innovative models.
- A **handy person** works on general maintenance like plumbing or carpentry.

EDUCATION CONNECTIONS

- If you enjoy art, architecture, and studying different social institutions, you may enjoy **art and visual cultures**
- Students in **furniture design** study trends to sketch and create innovative and unique furniture.
- Study the arts through **vocational education!**
- Learn directly through work experiences with an **apprenticeship** with a company.
- **Project management** students learn about initiating, planning, executing, controlling, and closing a project such as a construction job.

Written Iowa 4-H Youth Development 2013. Revised in 2019 by the Iowa 4-H Communication and the Arts Program Priority Team, Bonnie Dalager, 4-H Product Development Specialist, and Payton Sash, 4-H Student Office Assistant, Iowa State University Extension and Outreach.