

#### RUSTIC ENCLOSURE

Salvaged window shutters form the walls on three sides of this open-air shower on a deck in Folly Beach, S.C.

An old copper apple-cider press found new life as a basin that drains into the hillside below.

#### PLUMBING

Hook up an outdoor shower much like you would an indoor one. If you want both cold and hot running water, *This Old House* plumbing and heating expert Richard Trethewey recommends adding a pressure-balance valve to prevent scalding. "And for those who live in four-season climates, by far the biggest concern is having the ability to drain pipes when the temperature drops," cautions Richard; water trapped inside can freeze and crack the pipes. Shutoff valves should be located in the house with pipes traveling on a downward slope. An exposed riser and a showerhead that both unscrew, like the gooseneck model Steve Crandall used in a shower (pictured page 116) he built in Virginia's Blue Ridge Mountains region, ensure that every drop is eliminated.

Drainage is also an issue when the shower is in use. Local building codes vary about the disposal of gray water. But for the most part, outdoor showers simply drain into the ground. A drywell consisting of an earthen pit lined with landscape fabric and filled with gravel can be placed underneath the shower floor to help disperse the flow. More complicated, but required in some locales, is routing wastewater into the sewer system.



ONLINE  
VIDEO

See how it's done—watch a video of an outdoor shower being installed at [thisoldhouse.com/shortcuts](http://thisoldhouse.com/shortcuts)