

Nikarika Paul

Age 12, Rugby School

Garden Shed

The hypotenuse of the Δ that has two sides 60 and 120 is also the perpendicular of one of the side Δ s. This length is $\sqrt{18000}$ m.

$$\begin{aligned}\therefore \text{The one of the wooden sides of the } \Delta &= \sqrt{18000 + 14400} \\ &= \sqrt{32400} \\ &= 180 \text{ m}\end{aligned}$$

\therefore The 4 lengths come to 720 m.

The beam of wood connecting the two Δ s has length $380 - 240 = 60$ m.

\therefore All together the length is $720 + 60 = 780$ m.

If the length of x in red was x , then the total length of wood is:
 $4\sqrt{x^2 + 18000} + 60$.

This length would be the lowest when the slope of the function is 0. If we call the function $f(x)$, then

$$\frac{d(f(x))}{dx} = \frac{d(4\sqrt{x^2 + 18000} + 60)}{dx}$$

$$= \frac{4}{\sqrt{x^2 + 18000}} + 2x$$

When this comes to 0, then the minimum length is achieved.