

HOW TO MAKE CAT SHELTERS

Supplies Needed

-**2 different size tote boxes**, one to fit in side of the other with enough room for insulation all around

-Recommended

-Sterilite 66 qt. Clearview Latch Box, 26 1/2"L x 16"W x 12 1/4"H (clear)

- Walmart #550481332, UPC code 783149 08898



(normally blue handles)

-Sterilite 30gal 32 5/8L x 19 3/4W x 17 1/4H (light gray)

-Walmart #001437325, UPC code 73149 81882

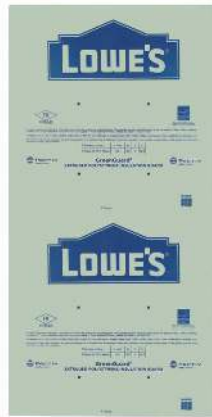


-**Fiberglass insulation or equivalent**

-**Blow-in insulation**



-**Extruded polystyrene foam board insulation, 4' x 8' x 3/4"**



-Spray foam insulation

-Garden Plus twist tie (Lowe's item #128247, UPC 51082 83123), garden section. It is basically a roll of the same twist tie stuff used to tie vegetable bags at the grocery store, but a roll of it and is used to tie plants, shrubs, etc. to hold them up to a support.



Tools needed

-6" hole saw

-Pop rivets and rivet gun (1/8 or 3/16 aluminum work well)

-Small hand saw (ideally a sheetrock saw so it can punch through the foam)

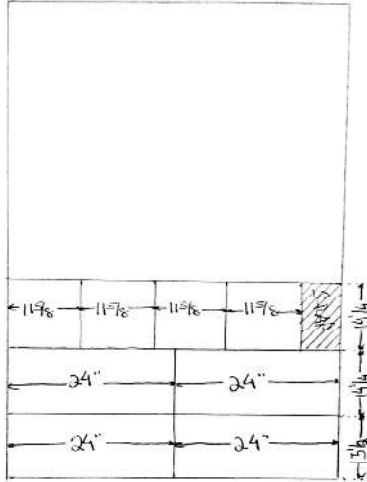


-Yard stick (a sheetrock T-square will make things easier)

-**Something to push fiberglass insulation into position** (yard stick works well, but a long wooden dowel or something else similar would work)

Steps

- Cut the foam board insulation (4' x 8' x 3/4" polystyrene foam board). Each shelter will use:
 - 2 - 24" x 13 1/2" (bottom of the shelter)
 - 2 - 24" x 14 1/4" (long-side of the shelter)
 - 2 - 11 5/8 x 14 1/4" (short-side of the shelter)



This is a good start for the layout, but should be reevaluated depending on how many shelters being made in order to minimize scrap.

- Place the two bottom portions on the bottom of the 30 gallon tub
- Fill in the gaps around the foam boards with blow in insulation



- Place the 66 quart tub inside on top of the insulation (with the lid on)
- Put a long-side foam board piece on each long side between the two tubs, and a short-side foam board piece on each short side between the two tubs
 - It is a snug fit, make sure it gets all the way down to meet the foam board pieces on the bottom so there is no gap



- Fill the four corners in with fiberglass insulation
- Use a yardstick, wooden dowel, or anything to cram it all the way down to the bottom and fill all the way to the top



- Break off smaller pieces and cram each down rather than trying to do one large piece



- Fill the top of the 66qt inner tub with blow in insulation
- Fill it slightly higher than the 30gal outer tub so that there is a very snug fit when the lid goes on



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- Place the lid on the 30gal outer tub and snap down
- Drill two holes on each side of the long-side of the 30gal tub for the pop rivets, and place a pop rivet in each to secure the top permanently (see photo below for sample placement)



Rivet location

-Use the 6" hole saw to drill a hole in the short-side of the shelter (see photo below for sample placement)



Hole location (foam hasn't been removed yet)

- Keep the circular piece from the gray 30gal tub to be used later
- Make sure it is as high as possible, where a cat can still step inside and have security, but not so high that you will hit the lid of the inner 66qt tub
- Use very little pressure; let the saw do all of the work
- Smooth out the hole when done, and check for cracks on the inner tub
 - If it cracked, you were pushing too hard with the drill
 - If cracked, use foil Shurtape on each side of the inner tub to fix. If not fixed, the spray in foam will expand and make the crack larger
- Fill in around the hole between the two tubs with spray foam and let dry, probably overnight
 - Dont worry about it dripping; although really sticky, it comes right off when dry.
- When dry, use a handsaw to cut the foam out of the hole. Sheetrock saw works well since it is pointy and can be pushed right through the dried foam



- Remove any foam from the hole and clean out anything else inside of the shelter
- Drill two small holes only through the 30gal outer tub on the top of the hole (left and right of center)

- Take the circular piece saved from earlier and cut in half
- Drill a hole on the top of each piece
- Use these holes to secure to the other holes you made earlier in the 30gal tub
- Wrap the twist tie stuff two times around the holes to secure. The two flaps should swing freely enough to allow the cat to get in and out easily



- Put in enough straw to make a comfy cat bed inside!