

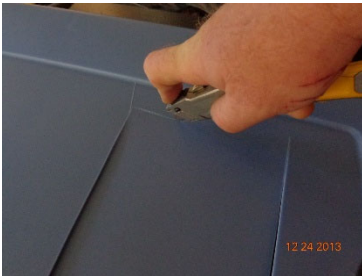
# Building your Roach enclosure

## Supplies needed

- 18 gallon Rubbermaid or Sterilite tote with a top, The end of the tote should be flat so you get a good transfer of heat from your heat source.
- Egg flats (6) 12"x12". Do not use egg flats from food services or recycled flats.
- Metal screen 12"x12"
- Heat source
- Hot glue gun
- Clear packing tape
- Utility knife

## **Constructing the enclosure**

Your top should have a small screened hole on (1) end and a larger screened hole on the other. A single screened hole allows the heat to rise without circulating the air. With the utility knife cut (2) holes in the top, (1) at each end to provide circulation of the air. The 1<sup>st</sup> hole should be around 2" wide and the 2<sup>nd</sup> hole should be 5"-6" wide. Both holes should be around 10" long so the screen will completely cover both holes.



Use a hot glue gun to completely secure the screen to the top of the enclosure. The small hole should be positioned over the heated end. This blocks the light and traps the heat so your roaches breed the best. The large hole should be placed over the cool end. Convection from the temperature gradient circulates the air without cooling down the hot end too much.



The end of your tote should be flat so you get a good transfer of heat from your heat source. The heat source needs to be placed on the end so there is a temperature gradient. If you place it on the long side or the bottom you may cook your roaches. By placing it on the end you provide a temperature gradient so you roaches can thermoregulate. I secure the heater with heat resistant tape, and then go over that with gorilla tape so it can not be pulled off.

Your egg flats should be hot glued together in sections of (2) and stacked vertically filling your enclosure except for enough room for food and the water crystals. This allows you to remove each section to easily harvest the roaches. Dubia roaches can not climb smooth surfaces, but most totes are not smooth so put a strip of clear packing tape along the top edge to keep your roaches from climbing out. The water crystals should be in a low container like a butter tub lid, or you must make a ramp of some sort so they can climb in & out of the water crystals. The food should be put on the bottom of the enclosure.

