

Make your own Outdoor Cat Tote Shelter

The below list of supplies, tools, and instructions are only suggestions based on the most streamlined process our volunteers have found over the years. Please feel free to improvise where/as needed.

Supplies Needed:

- HDX Storage Tote - 30 gallon (Part # 1004 691 332 from Home Depot)
- Styrofoam panels - 6 pack (Part #420777 from Home Depot)
- Heavy duty outdoor duct tape
- Straw

NOTE: A 6 pack of panels is enough for two shelters



Tools Needed:

- Utility Knife
- Tape Measure
- 6" Circular Bowl (not required)
- Black marker

Instructions:



1. **Cut one 6 inch round hole** on the smaller side of the tote. To do this, measure about 3-4" off the bottom of the tote and place the bowl on the tote to draw your circle. If you don't have a bowl, draw your circle approximately to 6 inches.

* It is important to not have the hole too high off the ground to make it difficult to enter but also not too low to the ground. Think water and snow!



TIP: HEAT TOTE WITH A HAIR DRYER (hot setting) TO MAKE THE PLASTIC PLIABLE & EASIER TO CUT!

2. **Cut styrofoam panels to fit in the tote.** For a single tote, 2 ½ sheets of the paneling we used will be required. Cut 2 panels in half. The halves will be used for the bottom, top and long sides of the tote. Cut the 3rd panel in quarters. We need 2 quarters for the short sides.



3. **Cut the entrance styrofoam hole.** First, place one half panel in the bottom of the tote. You will need to push it down a little bit but it fits, we promise. Take one quarter panel and place up against the entrance hole. Draw your circle on the panel using your pre-cut hole. Cut out the hole from the panel.



4. **Assemble the paneling.** Tape together the 2 half panels and 2 quarter panels to make your box. Make sure the frame is sturdy before putting into the tote. Once the frame is in the tote, tape all creases with duct tape to secure the frame to the bottom panel.



5. **Tape the entrance.** To ensure snow and debris does not accumulate between the tote and styrofoam entrance, tape the two together.



6. **Assemble the top paneling.** Take the last half panel and place it in the center of the bottom of the lid. Tape it down away from the grooves in the lid as the lid may not secure and snap to the tote. Once taped, confirm the lid will snap to the tote when put in place. Take lid off for final assembly.



7. **Add straw.** Put straw in and around the styrofoam. Be careful not to put too much between the styrofoam and tote as it may push the tote outward and not secure to the lid properly. **DO NOT** use bedding, other fabric items or hay. These all absorb water and will defeat the purpose of your amazing shelter.



8. **Secure lid.** Put the lid on the tote and confirm it snaps in place. If it doesn't, remove some straw or find out why before proceeding. If it does, tape the lid in place. You can use a couple small pieces of tape, one on each side like we did.