

Easy to Make WINTER SHELTER FOR HOMELESS CATS

For approximately \$20 you can help a homeless cat survive the frigid winter months. If you don't have any homeless cats in your neighborhood, please consider donating a winter shelter to a rescue group or donating supplies.



1 Large Storage Bin (Cost: Approx. \$7)
1 Smaller Storage Bin (Cost: Approx. \$5)
Duct Tape, Razor Knife (to cut Styrofoam)
Optional: Mylar blanket (Cost: Approx. \$1.50)

1 sheet 4' x 8' (1/2" - 1" thick) Styrofoam Insulation
(enough to make 2 shelters) (Cost Approx. \$9)
Straw or hay (1 bale is enough for more shelters)
Optional: Plastic (as flap for entranceway)

Find one plastic bin to fit into another one, but allow enough space for the Styrofoam insulation to be placed around all four sides.

Cut entrance holes a few inches up from the floor of the bins so the cat must "step" in. The higher entrance allows for the height of the straw, and lets the cat snuggle down into a "nest" of straw. This also prevents rain and snow from getting inside. Holes can be placed as above, but placing holes toward the "end" of one of the sides will allow the cat to avoid more wind. Holes can be cut square or round by using a very hot knife or a dremel cutting tool (in craft stores), or an angle grinder. Make sure entrance holes both line up for easy access.

Cut and place insulation on the floor, around the back, both sides, and two sides of entranceway. Place small bin inside larger bin. To prevent cats from getting at insulation at the sides of entranceway, seal the entire entranceway with duct tape. Fill the smaller bin with straw or hay, snap on the lid, and seal the lid with duct tape. Cut a piece of insulation and place on top of smaller bin. Snap the lid onto the larger bin and seal the lid.

Elevate the shelter off the ground if possible (on a deck, placed on a wooden pallet, bricks, etc.) For added protection from rain and snow place a piece of plywood on top and extend it a few inches beyond the entrance way, or place the shelter under a porch or deck area.

OPTIONAL: For added warmth, place a Mylar blanket (projects body heat-costs approx. \$2) under the straw or hay. You can also tape a plastic flap to entranceway. Make sure cats can enter and exit easily through flap.

Shelter Design shared by:

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Instruction Sheet Written by (CATS)

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