

Plastic Storage Box Feral Cat Shelters

For those of us that are not handy or don't know anyone that is handy with power tools this is a fast,easy and cheap way to help the homeless kitties make it through the winter. Fast & Functional - This innovative idea, costing around \$30 ,but prices may vary. In previous years, we learned that finding one plastic bin to fit inside another was the most challenging part of this project. One container should fit inside the other with room still left for polystyrene.

- The inner box is an 18 gallon Rubbermaid "Roughneck Tote" - Lowe's part number: 44894 - Cost \$5
- The outer box is a 35 gallon Rubbermaid "Latching Tote" that is harder to find - Lowe's part number: 212261 - Cost \$15
- 1" polystyrene - Cost \$10
- Total Cost : \$30

Having difficulty cutting the plastic? "We blew hot air from a hairdryer on the area where we planned to cut. This softened the plastic and it sliced like butter."

- Consider surrounding your cats' shelter with bails of straw. Did you know that straw is a fabulously efficient insulator? Homes insulated with 18" wide bails of straw could save 75% on heating & cooling costs. Just think what that could do for your cats!
- Place shelters where they will be protected from wind and snow drifts -- particularly those without protective flaps over the door(s) -- otherwise snow could blow in and bury/trap the cats. If there are fixed objects, such as buildings in your feral cat shelter area, pay attention to the way the winds tend to circulate, and place the shelters where there is the least amount of blowing & drifting snow. This could be a lifesaver, particularly for those who endure extreme winter weather, in which roads may be impassable for 1-2 days.
- Depending on predators and other animals/hazards in your area, some cats may not use shelters unless there are two exits -- one for them to sneak out should another unwanted animal enter. Consider an emergency exit with a flap that opens from the inside only.

