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# How to Make Feral Cat Houses

# Faithful Friends Design

## General Notes:

- Each house consists of a plastic bin (**30 gallon size is recommended**)
- Each house is lined with **polystyrene insulation board**: 2 long sides, 2 short sides, a bottom and a top
- There will be an access hole in the side of each bin with a corresponding hole in the inner insulation panel; line this hole with duct tape
- Fill with **straw**, not hay
- After assembly, wrap the bin with **duct tape** in 2 bands to ensure the top does not come off during use OR with lid on, drill 6 holes (1 at each of the 4 corners; 1 on the middle of each longer side) and use **plastic zip ties** fastened tightly to keep the lid closed

## Cutting Insulation:

The recommended **polystyrene insulation board is 1" thick and has shiny metallic coating on one side.** A local source is Home Depot. The individual pieces should be cut so they fit snuggly after assembly. Best way is to make cardboard templates for top, bottom, sides and ends. Note that the bins are tapered so the pieces of insulation should also be tapered to ensure a snug fit. If the pieces you cut fit loosely, use duct tape to secure the insulation pieces to the plastic bin so they don't collapse when the cats move around in the bin.

## Assembly Details:

Start with an empty bin…



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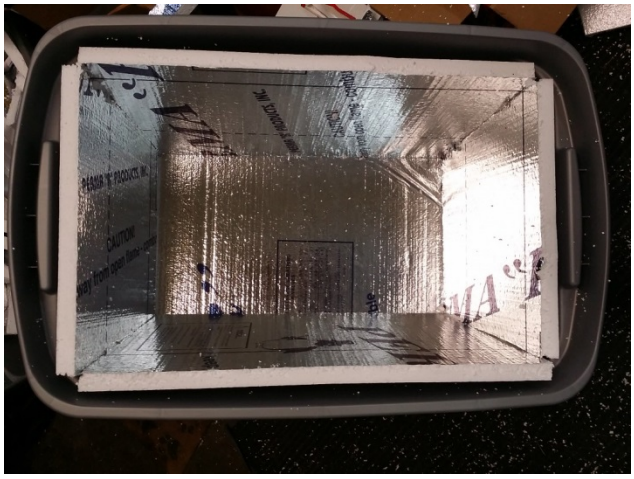
Install the bottom piece of insulation (shiny metallic surface facing towards the cats)…



Next, install the long sides (shiny metallic surface facing towards the cats)…



Then install the short sides (shiny metallic surface facing towards the cats), pressing them in firmly to lock the long sides in place…



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Now add the top (shiny metallic surface facing towards the cats)…



Then add the cover, latching the short ends over the bin…



Apply 2 bands of duct tape, wrapping completely around the bin so the tape sticks to itself…



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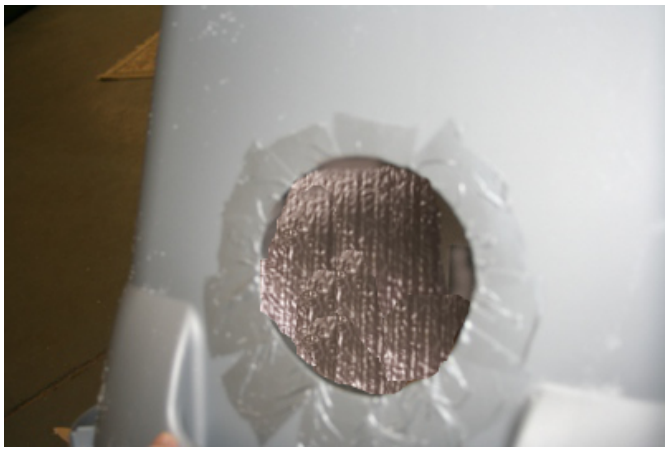
To create the entry hole, use a drill to make a starter hole…



Use a jigsaw to make a 5-6” diameter hole thru the plastic bin and the insulation. Locate the hole 4-6 inches above the bottom of the bin so the cats can walk in and out easily…




Apply tape to create a smooth surface around the cutout and to keep the insulation in place as the cats move in and out of the entry hole…



Finally, put some straw inside the bin - about 6 inches or so, enough to have several inches cover the bottom and go up along the sides. The bin is now ready to be placed in the colony.