

Building a shelter for 6 to 7 cats



Supplies needed:

Suncast DH250 dog house

Rubbermaid wastebasket 2953, 5.7 litres/6 quarts or one that measures about 10" x 7" by 10" high

Enerfoil: 1 sheet, 1½" thick. Do not go through the expense and work of building a shelter and skimp on insulation. This is easy to work with and has a higher R value than styrofoam. This is all the cats have to keep warm. Do not substitute anything for Enerfoil.

Reflectix bubble insulation: 2 pieces each about 2' square

23" x 21" x ½" plywood

21" x 3" x ½" plywood

1½" x 1½" x 10" wood (4 pieces)

24" x 24" Coreplast

⅜" thick x ¾" wide self-adhesive insulating tape (see picture)



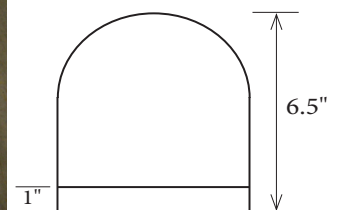
Cat door: the one used here is the Cat Mate Lockable Cat Door and the measurements and instructions given reflect that

Gorilla tape

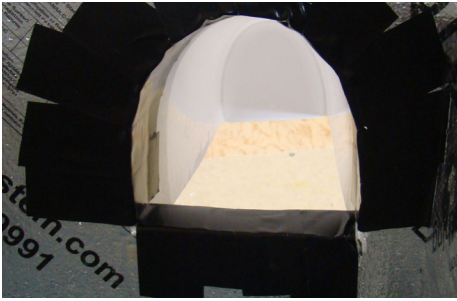
Note: Sometimes Gorilla tape does not stay stuck to plastic. To be sure, Sem Solve (a wax and grease remover) is always used on any plastic surface where tape will be applied. The Sem Slove can be purchased at a store that sells body shop supplies.

Entrance door

With the wide side of the wastebasket facing you, make a mark beneath the rim 6½" from the edge. Draw a line to the bottom of the wastebasket making it perpendicular to the lip, across the bottom and up the other side. Cut wastebasket and remove tabs under the lip. From the offcut cut a flat piece 1¾" by 6⅝" for the entry door and a piece 1½" x 4½" for the exit door.



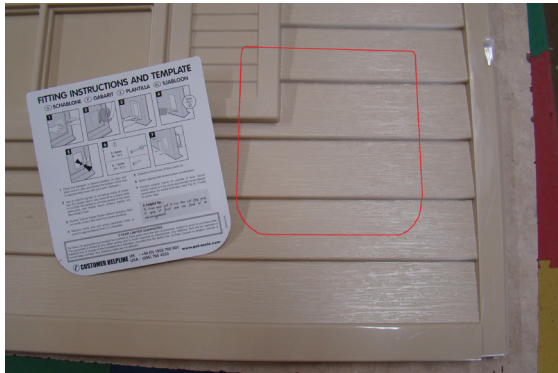
Cut Enerfoil following the diagram on last page. It cuts easily using a wide putty knife with the edges sharpened on a bench grinder or with a file. Choose an Enerfoil end piece and the Coreplast. With the bottoms flush, trim 2 upper corners of the Coreplast to the same shape. Make a mark on the Coreplast 5¾" down from the top and centred side to side. Put the centre inside top of wastebasket rim on the mark and trace the inside shape onto the Coreplast. On the Coreplast make a mark 1" up from each end and join the marks. Cut all lines. Put Core-



plast on Enerfoam piece and cut it to match. Trim enough foam from edge of hole so that the wastebasket rim will sit flush with the surface of the Enerfoam. Put the wastebasket through the Coreplast and add the Enerfoam. Use Sem Solve on the wastebasket and Coreplast where the tape will touch. Tape the sandwich together adding the flat piece of the wastebasket cutoff to the bottom of the entrance hole. Tape the outside seam.

Exit door

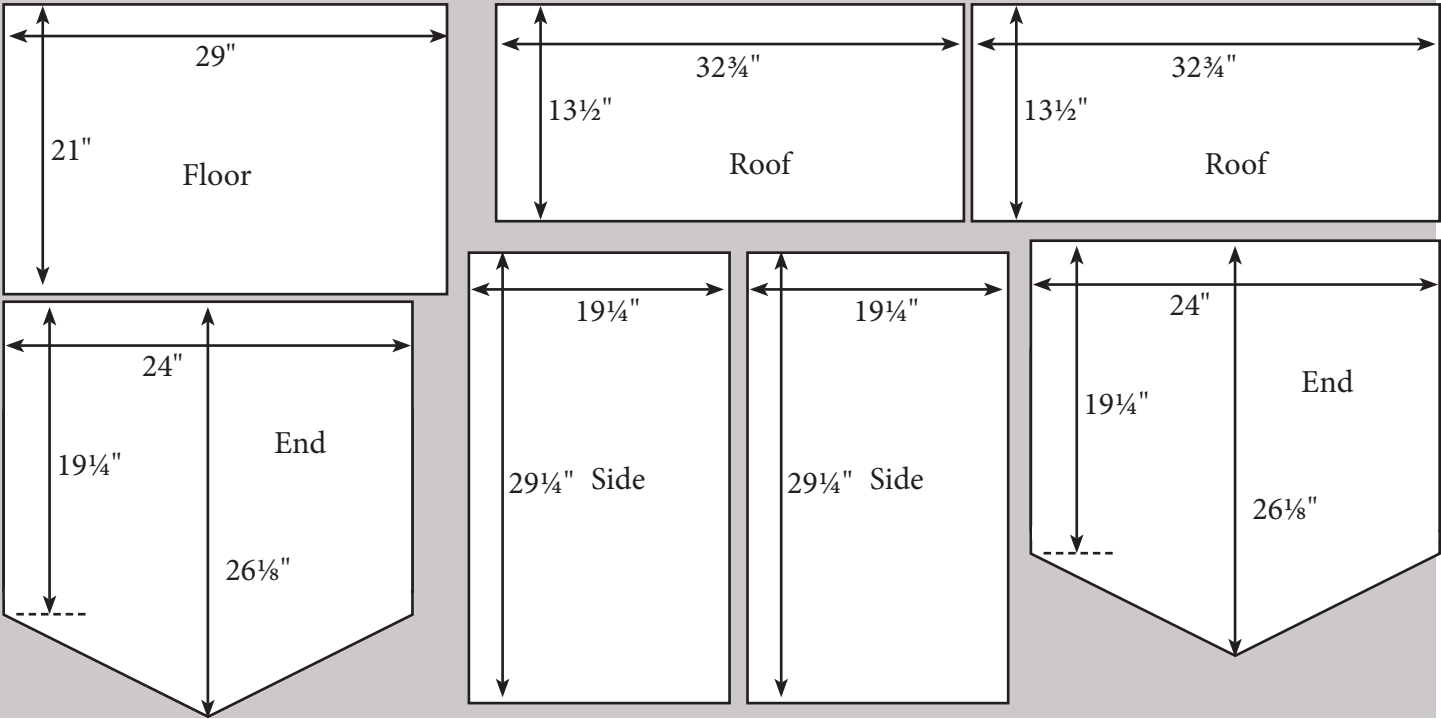
Choose one of the dog house sides and lay it so the bottom is towards you. The cat door has a template for the hole to be cut. Lay it on the right lower side of the house and position the edge 3" in from the side and 4¼" up from the bottom. Trace around the template and cut the hole. Assemble the dog house following the instructions that came with it. On the entry door piece cut off the 4 protruding plastic pieces above the entry hole where the bolts that would hold the doors go through. This will make the entry sandwich lie closer to the wall. Insert the completed entry door, the back end piece and the two sides. Trace the hole in the side wall onto the Enerfoam and cut it out. Put the offcut piece from the garbage can on the bottom of the hole and tape around the entire hole. Position the interior cat door frame on the opening and mark the location of the screws. Drill the holes following the instructions on the template. Attach insulating tape to the exterior part of the door. Hold the door and tape onto scrap wood and drill small holes through the tape. This will help the screws go through without moving the tape out of place. Place the interior and exterior doors in place. It may be helpful to use nails to line up the two parts in order to get the screws in. Once the screws are evenly tightened, put in the hole caps provided with the cat door. Make sure the cat door is set in the unlocked position. Insert the Enerfoam floor.



Interior floor

Attach legs to plywood floor using two screws per leg. The leg that will go beside the exit door must be moved 7" along the side (away from the entry door end) to give room for the cat door to swing in. Attach the 3" wide piece to the edge that will be away from the entry door (see picture). It will keep the straw in place on the plywood floor. Staple the Reflectix to both sides. Put the floor assembly in the dog house. Cut a 6" x 1½" piece of Enerfoam and put it between one foot and the wall. That will keep the floor from sliding forward when the house is moved.

Use a piece of Gorilla tape to hold it in place. Put straw on both levels and attach the roof. Replace the straw annually.



Cutting layout for Enerfoil (not to scale).



Recommended cutting tools for Enerfoil