

# Building a shelter for 3 to 4 cats



## Supplies needed:

Sterlite 1948 tote, 170 litres/45 gallons

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

1½" thick Enerfoil. Each tote requires about ½ sheet. This is easy to work with and has a higher R value than styrofoam. Do not go through the expense and work of building a shelter and skimp on insulation. This is all the cats have to keep warm. Do not substitute anything for Enerfoil.

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

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

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 surface where tape will be applied. The Sem Slove can be purchased at a store that sells body shop supplies.

## Instructions

Cut Enerfoil. It is easy to cut using a putty knife and long metal straight edge. Sharpen the edges of the putty knife with a bench grinder or file.

Sides: 31¼" x 16¼"

End #1: 12¼" wide tapering to 15" wide x 16¼" high

End #2: 12¼" wide tapering to 15" wide x 15⅞" high.

This shorter piece goes on the end with the wheels.

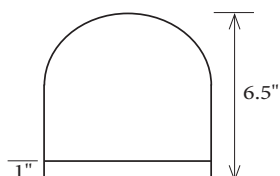
Bottom: 27½" x 12½"

Top: 32¾" x 18"



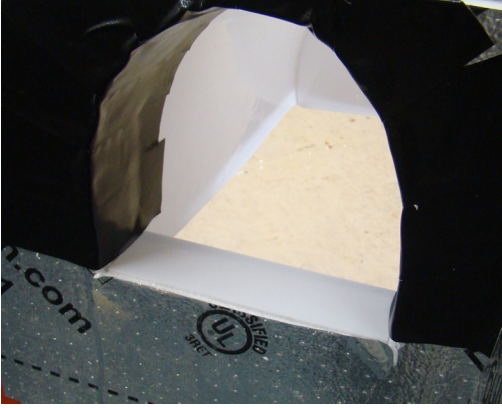
## Entrance door

Cut wastebasket from top to bottom so that it is 6½" high. Save the offcut. Place a side piece of insulation in the tote and hold the wastebasket near the top and end of the tote. Make sure the top of the wastebasket will not end up above the insulation. Trace the inside of the wastebasket rim on the tote and draw a line 1" up from the cut ends. The cutting lines should look like the image to the left. Cut hole.

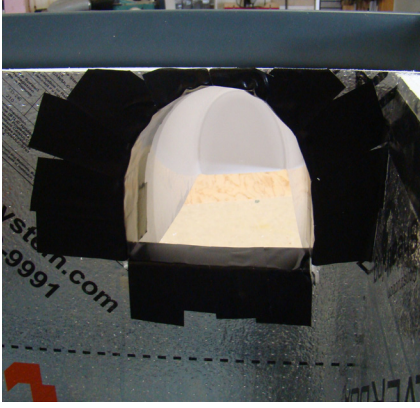


Hold the side insulation piece against hole and trace the cutting lines to it. Cut the hole and trim the edge facing the tote if need be so that the insulation will lay flat against the

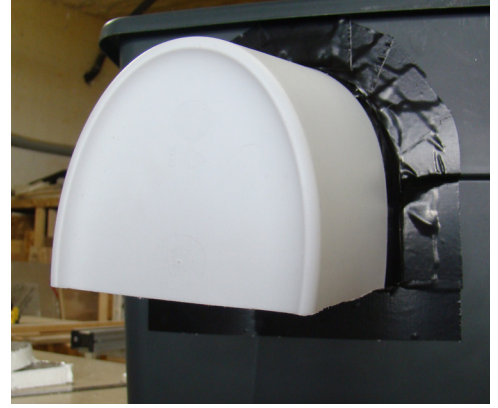
tote when the waste basket is in place. Insert wastebasket into the tote and put the side insulation in place. Cover the floor of the entrance hole with the larger offcut. Tape around the hole.



offcut in entryway before taping



after taping



taped exterior

### *Emergency exit*

Put all the Enerfoil pieces in the tote except for the top. The cat door is installed on the end furthest from the entrance door. Lay the template for the door in the centre of the tote and so that the top is just below the top of the insulation. Trace the shape of the template, remove the insulation and cut the hole. Following the instructions provided with the door, use the interior piece to mark the screw locations and drill the holes in the tote. Put the insulation back in and trace the hole on to it. Cut it out, put the remaining offcut on the bottom and tape the entire hole. Attach insulating tape to the exterior part of the door. Hold the door and foam onto scrap wood and drill small holes through the foam. This will help the screws go through without moving the foam out of place.



Place the interior and exterior doors pieces in place. It may be helpful to use nails to line up the two parts in order to get the screws in. The spacers provided with the door should be use on the screws. 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 Enerfoil floor. Put a small piece of tape near the top of each of the corners of insulation fastening the sides together so the pieces don't move. Install the top piece. The top insulation piece will need small diagonal cuts at each corner to fit the tote. Place loose straw in the tote and refresh it annually.



corner taping