

DIY Community Cat Shelter



With a few inexpensive materials, you can make a winter shelter for community cats. This simple shelter is brought to you by Rubbermaid. More information may be found at www.erubbermaid.com. Often times cats will resist entering a shelter with only one exit as it puts them in a vulnerable position to predatory dangers. You may need to cut additional holes on the opposite side to incentivize colony cats to use your roughneck home.

As the cats grow accustomed to their new shelter, it may be desirable to add additional protection from wind or other elements by placing a door flap made of heavy plastic or vinyl to each entrance of your roughneck home.

Supplies:

- Rubbermaid Tote - 18 gallon
- Styrofoam Cooler
- Straw (NOT hay as pictured)
- Duct Tape
- Utility Knife

This shelter utilizes the 18-gallon Rubbermaid tote and is most suitable for one feral cat. For two or more cats, simply replicate these instructions using the 36-gallon tote and a larger styrofoam cooler.



Step 1: Cut a 6" diameter hole in the tote to act as an entrance or exit. Make sure to always cut away from your body.



Step 2: Insert your styrofoam cooler into the tote and cut a 6" diameter hole that matches the tote.



Step 3: Add straw* in and around the styrofoam cooler for added insulation, using as much as possible.

*It's important to use straw, not hay (as pictured). Straw resists moisture while hay, blankets, carpet, and other items retain moisture which can make your shelter wet and cold.



Step 5: Complete the shelter by putting your lid back on the tote. You may wish to place additional duct tape on the lid as well.



Step 4: Add your styrofoam lid for added insulation. Secure lid in place with a few pieces of duct tape.

Tip: Place a heavy rock or brick on top of the shelter to prevent it from being tipped over by weather or predators.

