

Easy and Inexpensive Shelters for Cats

Purchase a 32 (or more) gallon plastic storage tub/tote. Target, Wal-Mart, Fred Meyer's and other places have Sterilite and Rubbermaid brands frequently on sale. Then purchase either foam rubber—I purchased a couple of large sheets of it at Fred Meyer—or aluminum bubble foil insulation at a hardware store. (see photo below)



Then cut either the insulation or the foam rubber to fit the inside of the cover or lid and secure it with duct tape. At least two inches from the bottom and the side measure and mark a 5" square that will be the opening into the tub. 5 inches is large enough for cats but not raccoons. Using a drill cut some holes along the lines drawn on the tub and cut out the opening with either wire cutters or a saw.



Once you have an opening, use duct tape to cover the rough edges. Then cut the foam rubber or the insulation to fit the sides of the storage tub and secure it with duct tape. (see the next five photos)







Now your storage tub is ready for the best bedding/insulation for the cats—straw. You'll want to put plenty of straw on the bottom and the sides of the tub. Pushing your hand and arm through the opening to form a path into the container for the cats. You'll need to push down on the straw in the center so that there's room for the 2 or 3 cats that will snuggle together in the tub. Using a weatherproof marker, it's a good idea to label the tub "Cat Shelter Please Do Not Remove."





Snap on the lid and the containers are ready to provide the cats with insulated and waterproof shelters for the winter. Since the containers are almost indestructible, you will only need to refresh the straw next fall and possibly replace some of the insulation or duct tape. These shelters should last many years.

