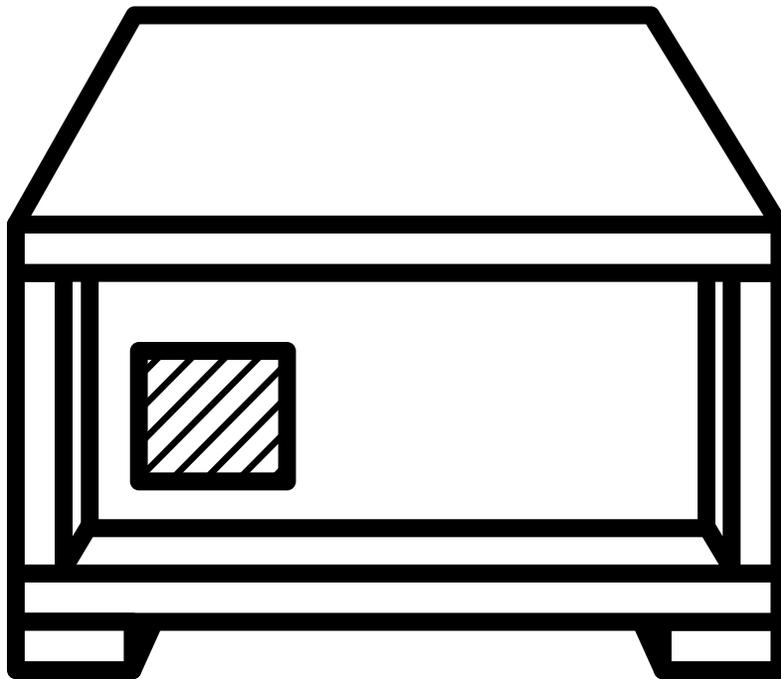

FERAL CAT WINTER SHELTER

HOW-TO GUIDE



GiveThemTen.org

MATERIALS

Hard Styrofoam sheet — 2 feet wide, 8 feet long, 2 inches thick
One tube (that fits a caulk gun) of clear silicone sealant;
OR two smaller hand-squeezable tubes of clear silicone sealant
Three one-foot-square pieces of thin linoleum tile with adhesive backing
Latex deck paint (approximately 1 quart)
Straw

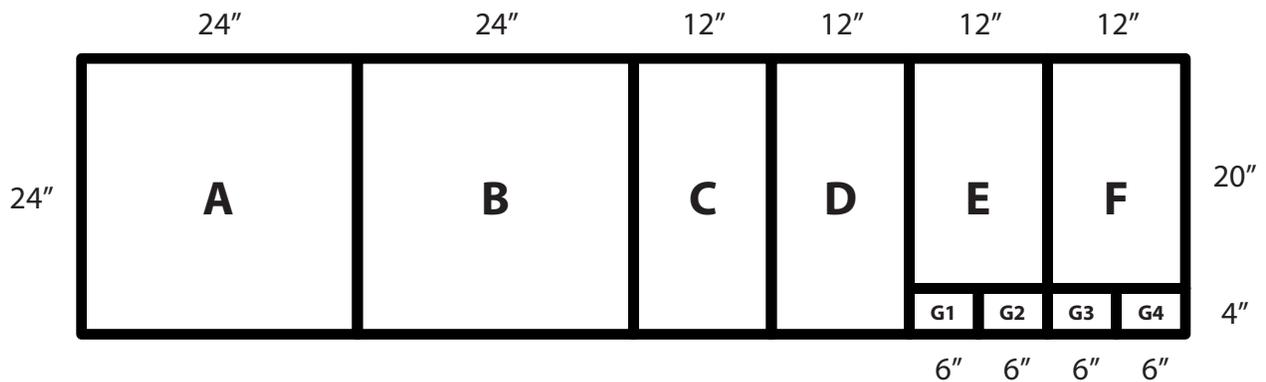
TOOLS

Table saw
Utility knife (with extendable blade) or jigsaw
Caulk gun
Painting equipment: brush/roller, paint tray, drop cloth
Felt-tip marker
Yardstick

STEP 1 — Plan and Cut

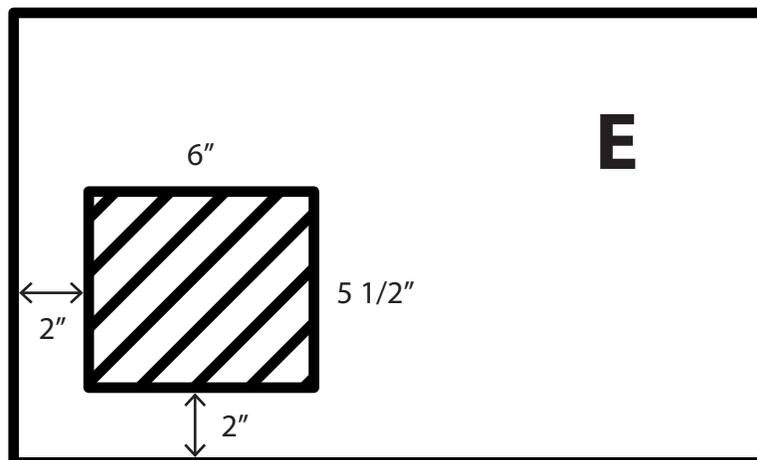
Using a table saw, cut the Styrofoam sheet into the following pieces:

- Two pieces of 24" x 24" (pieces A and B)
- Two pieces of 12" x 24" (pieces C and D)
- Two pieces of 12" x 20" (pieces E and F)
- Four pieces of 4" x 6" (pieces G1, G2, G3 and G4)



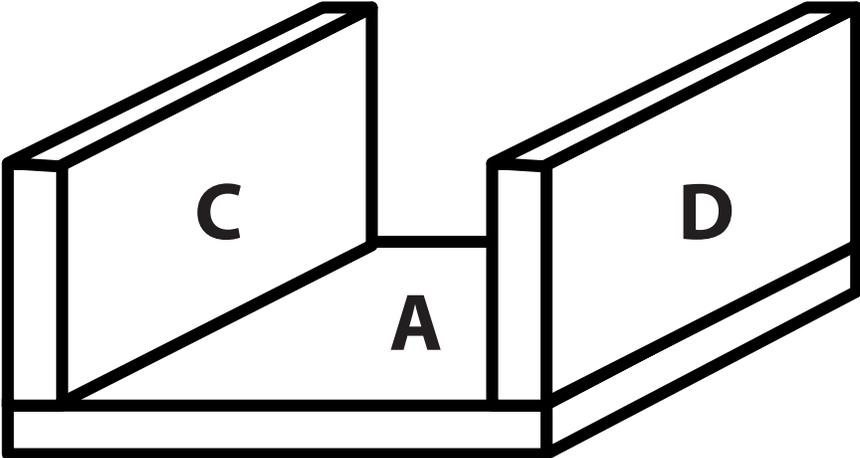
STEP 2 — Cut Out Door

The first step is to cut out what will become the front door of the shelter. Using the yardstick and felt pen, draw a rectangle on piece E that measures 5 1/2" high and 6" wide, placed 2" from the right or left edge and 2" from the bottom. Use the utility knife (or preferably a jigsaw) to cut out the rectangle.



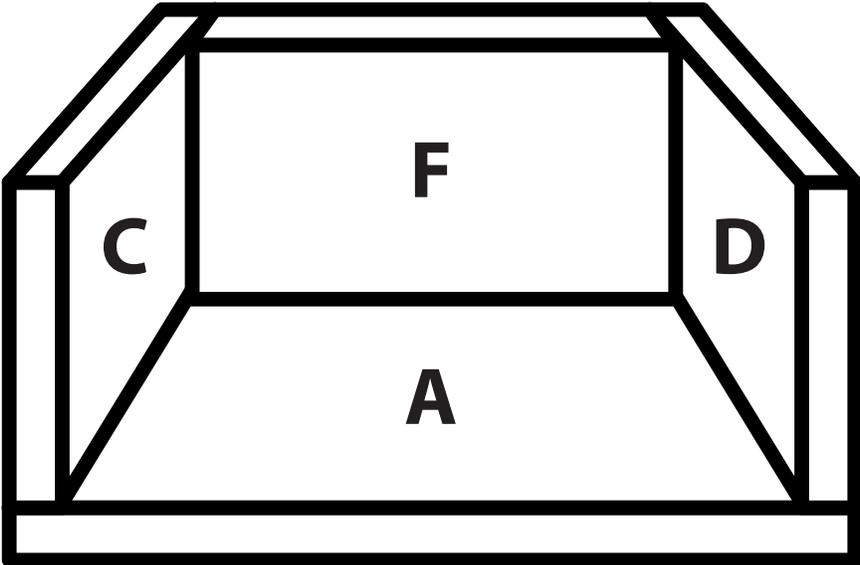
STEP 3 — Put Up Walls

The next step is to line up the sides of the shelter onto the floor. First, place pieces C and D onto the right and left outer edges of piece A.



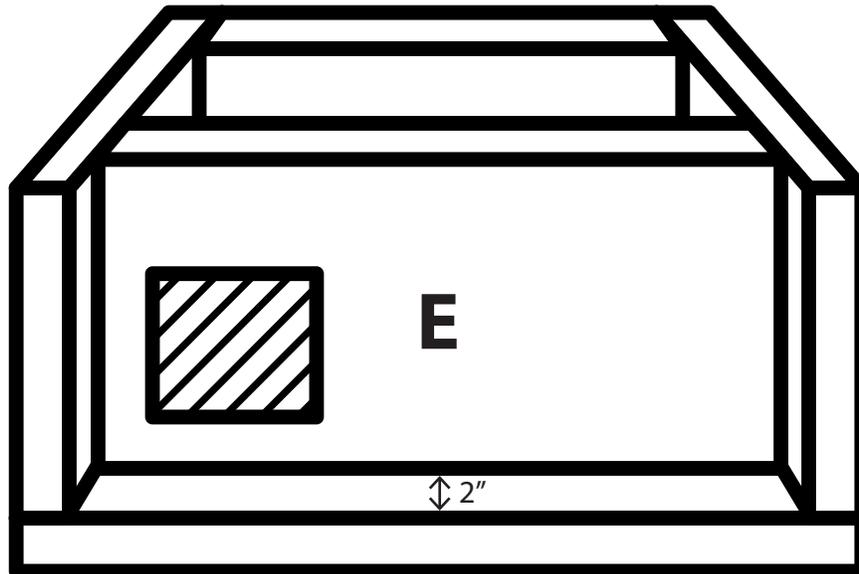
STEP 4 — Prop Up Back Wall

Next, place piece F onto the back edge of piece A.



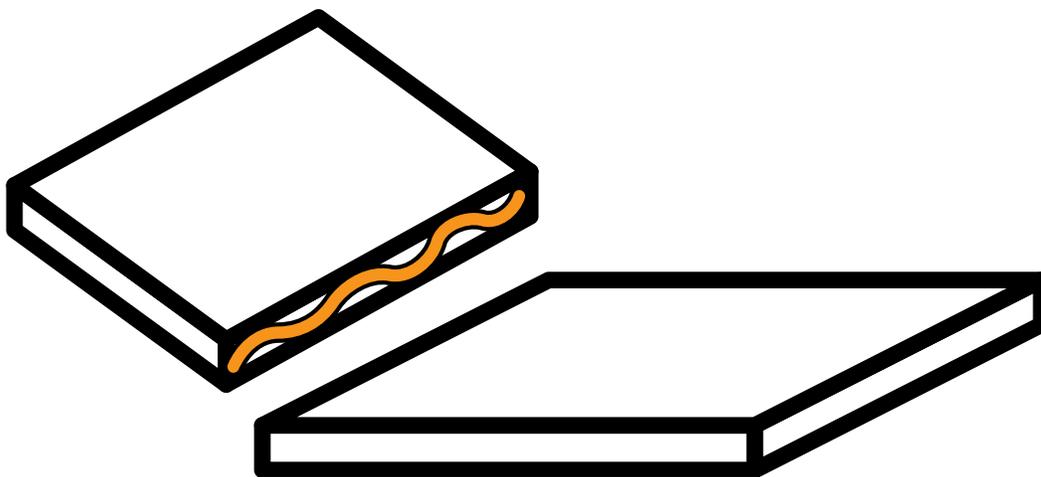
STEP 5 — Line Up All Pieces

Finally, place piece E two inches back from the front edge of piece A, making sure the door is in the correct position.



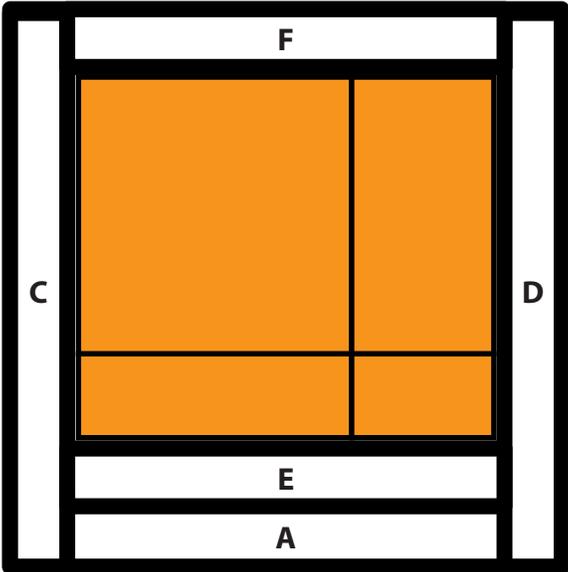
STEP 6 — Apply Adhesive

Once you've made sure everything lines up, use the caulk gun to apply the silicone sealant onto the bottom of pieces C, D, E and F, and glue them in place, one at a time. Let the glue dry for a few minutes. You may choose to paint all the pieces BEFORE gluing them together, as latex deck paint will not adhere to areas covered with the sealant. (See Step 11.)



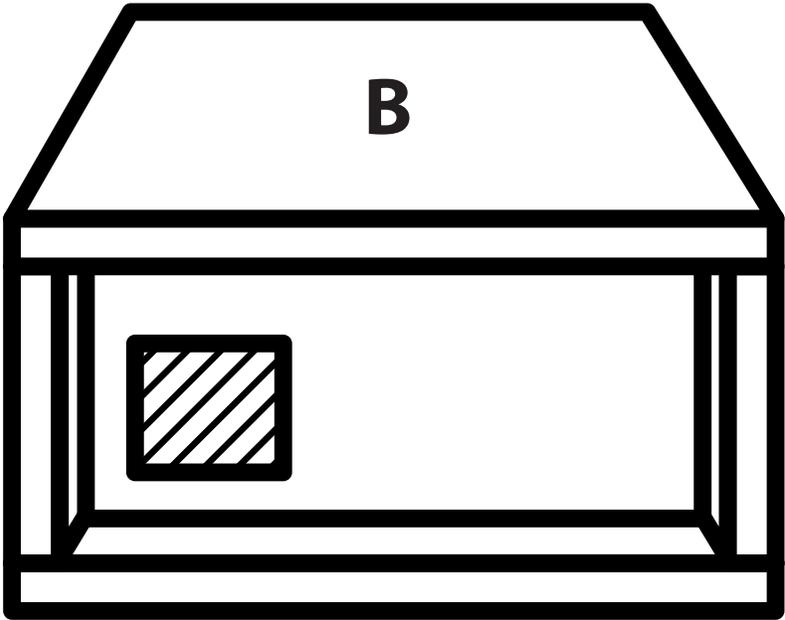
STEP 7 — Apply Tiles

Apply the three linoleum tiles to the floor, cutting the second and third pieces to fit the floor space.



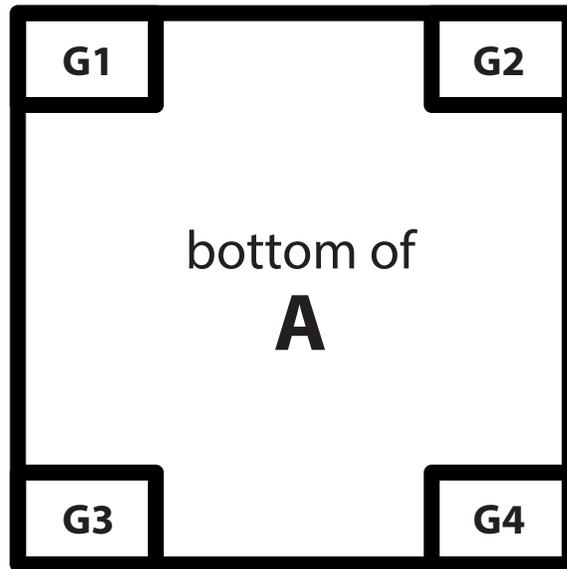
STEP 8 — Top It Off

Next, attach the roof. Glue piece B onto the top of pieces C, D, E and F.



STEP 9 — Attach Legs

Then attach the legs. Glue pieces G1, G2, G3 and G4 onto the corners of the bottom of piece A.



STEP 10 — Seal It Off

Seal all seams and cracks of the shelter with silicone.

STEP 11 — Paint Shelter

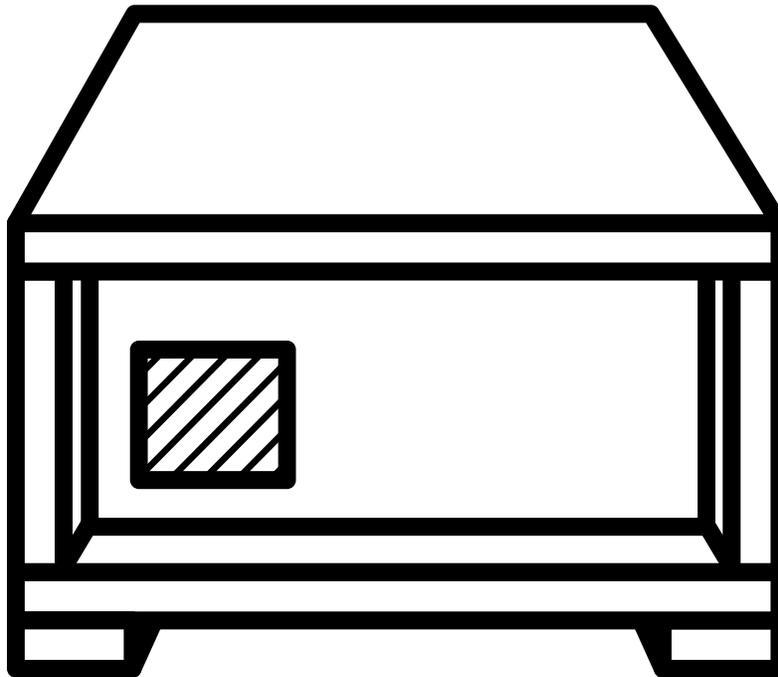
After the silicone glue has completely dried (usually 24 hours), paint the shelter with one or two coats of latex deck paint, matching the color to the surroundings where the shelter will be placed. (As mentioned before, the paint will not adhere to areas covered with the sealant. You may choose to paint all the pieces of the shelter BEFORE gluing them together to avoid this.)

STEP 12 — Fill With Straw

Once the paint has dried, the shelter should be filled approximately two-thirds full with straw.

You did it! Way to save cats' lives!

Here's what your completed shelter should look like:



SOME OUTDOOR TIPS:

- For winter protection, it's just as important for the shelter to be dry as to be warm.
- The shelter should sit firmly on all four feet so it does not wobble when a cat steps into it.
- The shelter is very light, so it is necessary to weigh it down with at least one brick or board on the roof. The roof is strong enough to hold a reasonable amount of weight.
- One way to block the wind and create more protection from rain is to place two shelters facing each other, and then place a board on top, spanning the two roofs.
- The best insulation for the shelter is straw, which cats can burrow into. Avoid using hay or anything moist that could cause bacteria to form. Towels and blankets can actually draw away body heat and should not be used.
- Entice cats to go inside the shelter with catnip at the entrance.