



Building Plan for Cat Cabins

Materials

- **Plywood** (5/8 " CDX Exterior)
 - 4x8 ft sheet
- **Styrofoam**
 - 2" thickness, 4x8 ft sheet
- **Pine Wood**
 - 2" x 2" (8 ft length), cut into:
 - (2) 3 ft sections
 - (2) 1 ft sections
 - 1" x 3" pine, 15 ft
- **Miscellaneous Supplies**
 - 30" piano hinge
 - Vinyl/coroplast
 - 30" aluminum angle iron
 - 3" chain
 - 1.25" construction screws
 - 2.5" construction screws
 - #10 3/4" wood screws (to attach angle iron on cover)
 - Fender washers
 - Staples
 - Paint

Tools Needed

- Circular saw
 - Jig saw
 - Drill
 - Mat knife
 - Stapler
 - Hand saw
 - Keyhole saw
-

Step-by-Step Instructions

Step 1: Cutting the Plywood

- **Cut pieces for the cabin structure:**
 - (1) 3' x 24" for the bottom
 - (2) 24" x 21" for the sides
 - (2) 24" x 21" for the ends
 - (1) 28" x 41" for the cover
- **Optional:** Stain or paint the plywood with exterior paint (green or brown). Apply at least two coats for durability.

Step 2: Assembling the Sides

- Align the 24" x 21" sides with the bottom 3' x 24" panel.
- Attach sides to the bottom using 1.25" screws. Use clamps to hold the pieces in place while attaching. Note: the 24"x21" ends will help align while attaching sides.

Step 3: Attaching the Ends

- Trim the top of the ends as needed.
- Attach the 24" x 21" ends to the sides using screws.
- You should now have a rectangular box.

Step 4: Adding the 2" x 2" Pine

- Attach 2" x 2" pine pieces to the bottom:
 - Along the sides and 1' on each end. Place each about 5" from perimeter.

- 1' from each end
- Position pine pieces about 5" from the perimeter.

Step 5: Trimming the Top Perimeter

- Attach 1" x 3" pine trim around the top perimeter of the box (sides first, then ends).
- Trim as needed to ensure a snug fit.

Step 6: Creating the Entrance

- Mark a 5.5" x 9" rectangle on one end for the entrance. We suggest 4.5" from the bottom and 4" from the side.
- Drill holes in each corner of the rectangle.
- Use a jigsaw to cut out the entrance.

Step 7: Cutting and Installing Styrofoam (Interior)

- **Cut Styrofoam pieces:**
 - Break the 4x8' sheet in half, creating two 2' x 8' sections.
 - Cut the following:
 - (2) 24" x 18" pieces for the ends
 - (3) 24" x 16" pieces for the sides
- Place the Styrofoam end pieces into the box, ensuring a snug fit. Ends should be about 2" from the top of the box.
- Trim the foam as necessary. Mark one of the ends through the opening, remove and use the keyhole saw to remove the 5.5"x9" foam to create entrance.

Step 8: Installing Bottom Foam Panel

- Leaving the ends in place, measure and cut a foam piece approximately 30.5" x 24" for the bottom.
- Place this piece at the bottom of the box, holding the ends in place.

Step 9: Installing Side Foam Panels

- Place a 16" x 24" Styrofoam panel on each side. This should leave about 6.5' x 16" space on each side.
- Measure and trim additional 16" pieces as needed to ensure a tight fit in the remaining space.

Step 10: Securing the Foam

- You should now have a fully lined cabin w/o the top.

- Use 2.5” screws with fender washers, usually 2 on each side and 1 on each end to secure the foam panels to the cabin walls.
- Place screws about 10-12” from the bottom, securing both sides and ends.

Step 11: Cutting and Installing the Top Foam Panel

- Cut the final foam piece to approximately 24” x 34.5”.
- This piece should sit on top of the interior foam panels with the top closed.

Step 12: Attaching the Cover

- Attach the 28” x 41” cover to the box using a 30” piano hinge.
- Ensure the leading edge of the cover overhangs about 2” for easy opening.

Step 13: Installing the Cover Retaining Chain

- Attach one end of a 3” chain about 6” from the leading edge of the cover.
- Attach the other end to the bottom of the cabin, on the trim.
- Ensure the cover can open approximately 120 degrees.

Step 14: Attaching the Vinyl on the top

- Cut vinyl to fully cover the top of the cabin.
- Staple vinyl around the perimeter of the cover: 5 staples on the back, 3 on the sides, and 2 on the leading edge.


Step 15: Installing the Aluminum Angle Iron

- Drill 3 holes in the aluminum angle iron and attach it to the leading edge of the cover (opposite the hinge).
- Position the angle iron about 2.5” from each end to stabilize the cover and provide a handle. Use the #10 x ¾” screws to attach.

Step 16: Building the Entry Tunnel

- Use leftover plywood to build an entry tunnel for the cabin.
 - The tunnel should be approximately:
 - 12” deep
 - 9” wide for the roof and floor
 - 12” tall for the sides
 - Attach the tunnel to the side of the entry, covering the roof with vinyl for protection.
-

Step 17: Stuff with Straw- two flakes on the bottom, one in the back and two on either side. Make sure the entrance is clear. *NOTE: DO NOT* use hay or blankets.



Tel. (315) 584-1374
info@neighborhoodcatsnetwork.org
www.neighborhoodcatsnetwork.org
P.O. Box 263, Mendon, NY 14506