

Storage Bin Feral Cat House

There are many feral cat house designs out there, but I like this one for the mild Northwest winters for several reasons.

- It is easy to make.
- Materials are inexpensive and easy to find. If you shop around, you can build this style for between \$8 and \$20.
- The reflective Reflectex insulation is durable, doesn't contain itchy or noxious fibers, reflects heat in addition to insulating the house and can be used to keep warm in the winter and cool in summer.
- It is safer than some Styrofoam designs. Cats tend to chew or scratch the Styrofoam and ingesting it while grooming can cause obstructions.
- It can be easily modified by adding an interior box, additional insulation or an outdoor electric cat heater.



Materials

- Storage Bin
 - The example shown is 27 gallons. This size will fit 2 to 4 cats.
 - Expect to pay \$5 - \$15 for a new bin.
- Duct Tape
- Mylar Double Foil Bubble Wrap
- Duct Tape
- Scissors
- Drill
- Jig saw
- Round Template
- Marker



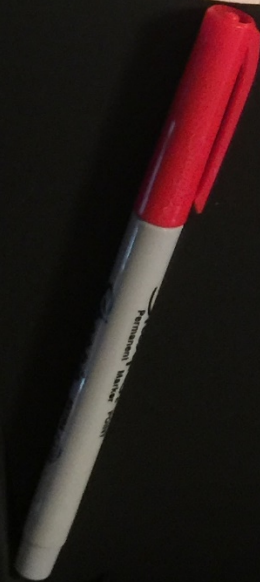
Step 1

- Find a round template to use for tracing the doors.
- A small paper 6 inch paper plate is being used here.



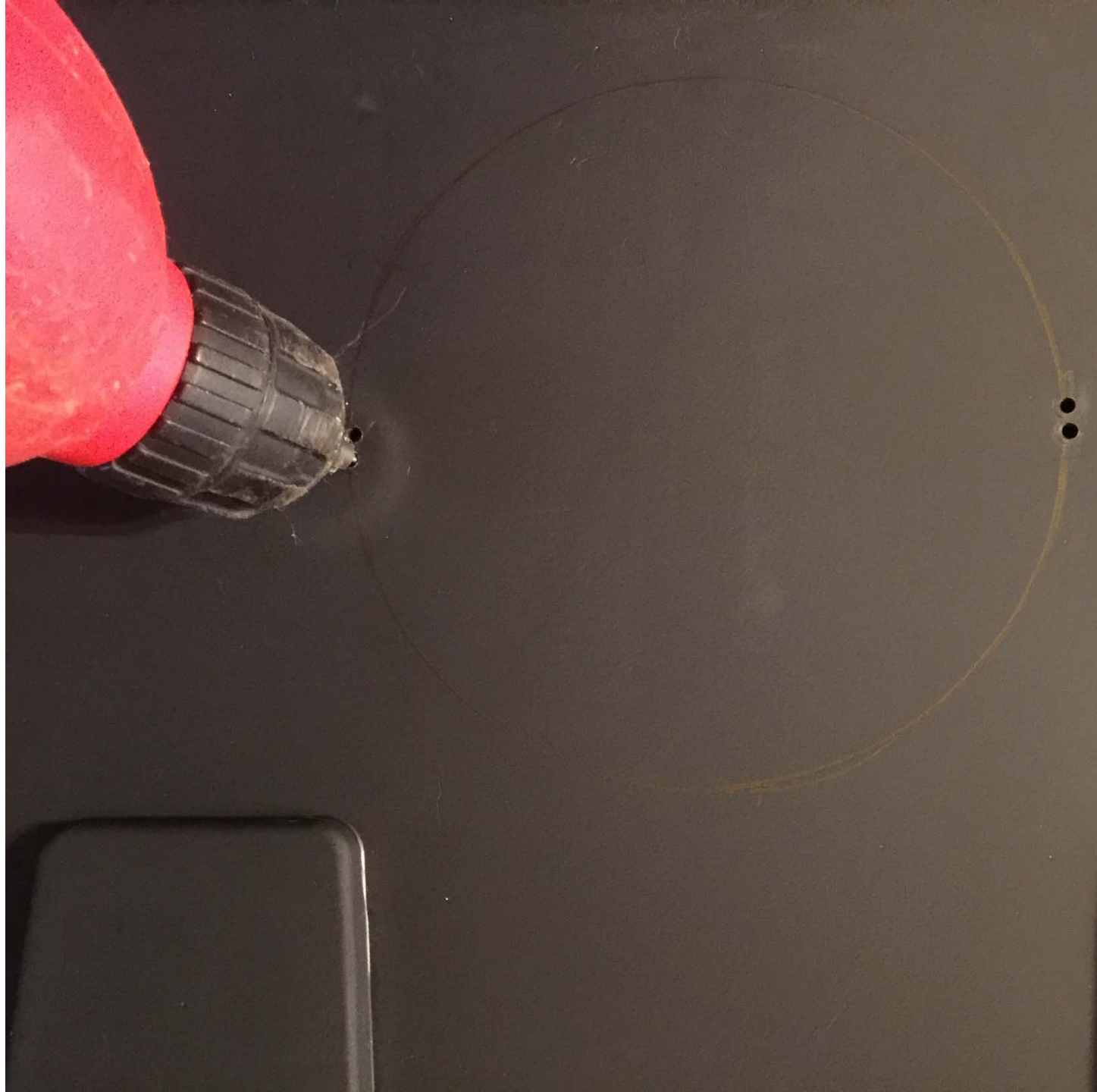
Step 2

- Use a marker to trace the door on opposite sides of the bin.



Step 3

- Using a drill with a large bit, make a pilot hole or two that will be large enough for a jigsaw blade to fit through. Be sure to make **two doors** so cats can escape if a predator or territorial cat sticks his head in the entrance.



Step 4

- Use a jigsaw to cut along the lines you traced.





This 10 pound cat easily fits through the 6 inch door.

Step 5

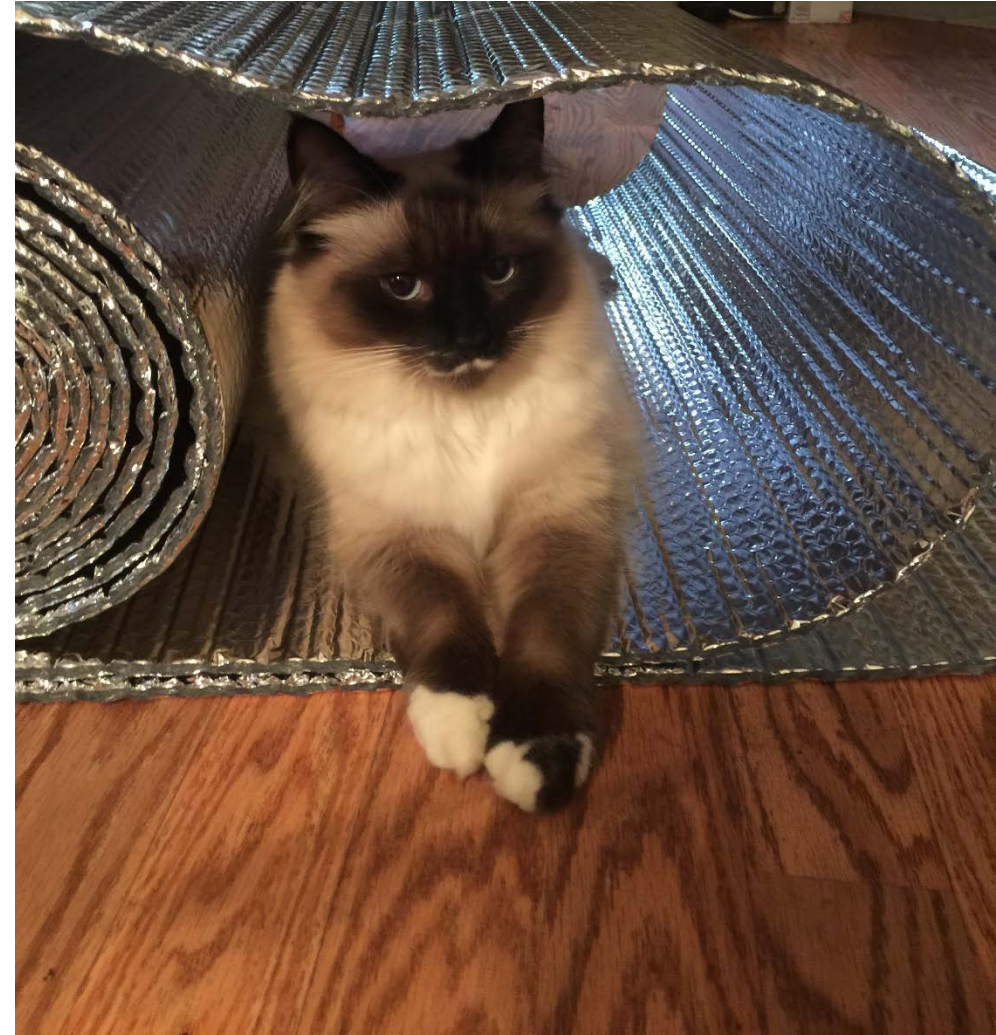
- Line the sides and bottoms with Mylar bubble wrap.
- If needed, use two layers for additional insulation.



Step 6

- Cut the excess with scissors.





Remove cat helpers from Mylar before going to step 7

Step 7

- Cut out Mylar for the roof and two sides.



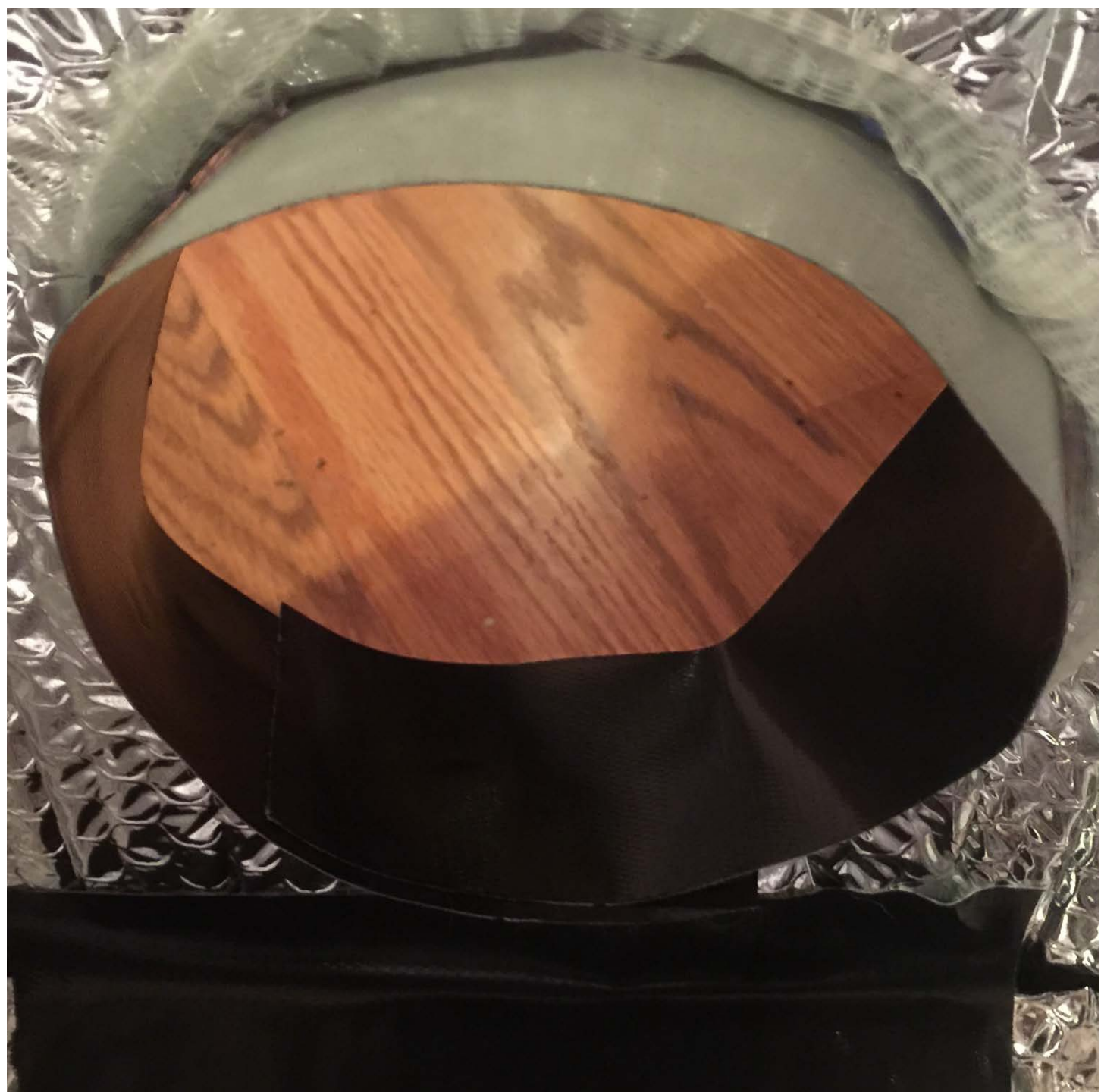
Step 8

- Wedge Mylar bubble wrap for door covers in place indicated by cat helper and trace the door with a marker.
- Cut out the door and then place back in bin.



Step 9

- Attach the door panel to the inside of the bin using duct tape.
- Cut a length of duct tape and tack it loosely around the door entrance.



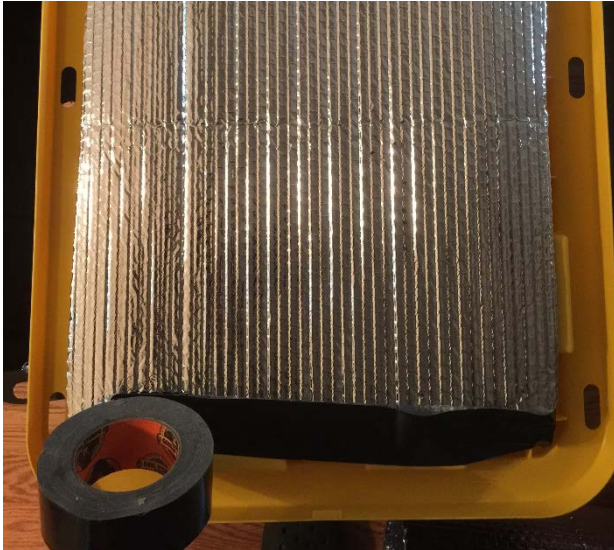
Step 10

- Clip the duct tape about ever inch or two on either side.
- Fold the duct tape over as you go.



Step 11

- Using duct tape, seal the Mylar insulation around the roof and edges.



Step 12

- Make it warm and cozy.
- Add one or more of the following.
 - Fleece Bedding
 - Washable
 - Cats can burrow into it
 - Stays warm when damp
 - Straw
 - Good insulator
 - Inexpensive
 - Some cats are allergic
 - Cats will sometimes use the straw as a litterbox.
 - Outdoor heated cat bed. Read the directions first.

