

Feral Cat Housing:

This innovative idea, costing around \$30 came to us from a feral cat caregiver in Villa Park, IL.

In previous years, we learned that finding one plastic bin to fit inside another was the most challenging part of this project. Charlie H. wrote to us with the answer: he found all the materials at Lowe's:

The inner box is an 18 gallon Rubbermaid "Roughneck Tote" - Lowe's part number: 44894 - Cost \$5

The outer box is a 35 gallon Rubbermaid "Latching Tote" that is harder to find - Lowe's part number: 212261 - Cost \$15

1" polystyrene - Cost \$10

Total Cost in 2007-2008: \$30

Having difficulty cutting the plastic? Laurie M. or St. Paul, MN shared her solution with us: "We blew hot air from a hairdryer on the area where we planned to cut. This softened the plastic and it sliced like butter."

Consider surrounding your cats' shelter with bails of straw. Did you know that [straw is a fabulously efficient insulator](#)? Homes insulated with 18" wide bails of straw could save 75% on heating & cooling costs. Just think what that could do for your cats!

Place shelters where they will be protected from wind and snow drifts -- particularly those without protective flaps over the door(s) -- otherwise snow could blow in and bury/trap the cats. If there are fixed objects, such as buildings in your feral cat shelter area, pay attention to the way the winds tend to circulate, and place the shelters where there is the least amount of blowing & drifting snow. This could be a lifesaver, particularly for those who endure extreme winter weather, in which roads may be impassable for 1-2 days.

Depending on predators and other animals/hazards in your area, some cats may not use shelters unless there are two exits -- one for them to sneak out should another unwanted animal enter. Consider an emergency exit with a flap that opens from the inside only.





The "Ultimate Feral Cat Shelter" is a joint offering from the [Mayor's Alliance for NYC's Animals](http://www.alleycat.org) and [All About Spay Neuter Inc.](http://www.spayandstay.org)

Why do we think it is the "Ultimate Feral Cat Shelter"?

- 1) Cooler is readily available in the US and globally for purchase in stores and on the Internet
- 2) Different sizes available for different needs
- 3) Already Insulated
- 4) Can be converted into a feral cat shelter easily and quickly



<http://www.spayandstay.org/wintershelter.htm> <http://www.alleycat.org/Page.aspx?pid=631>