

## What You'll Need:

### Materials - Follow Step 1 to determine lengths

- Styrofoam cooler
- One piece of plywood or sheet of 1/2" pine
- Four 2" x 4" x 8' boards
- Two 1" x 4" x 8' boards
- Two 1" x 3" x 8' boards
- Four 1" x 6" x 8' boards
- 3" deck screws
- Nails
- Wood glue
- Two weather-resistant hinges
- Weather-resistant chain stop
- Weatherproof paint, stain or varnish

### Tools

- Circular Saw
- Hammer
- Drill/driver
- Cordless screwdriver
- Sander
- Tape measure
- Speed square
- Paintbrush
- Safety glasses
- Dust mask (optional)

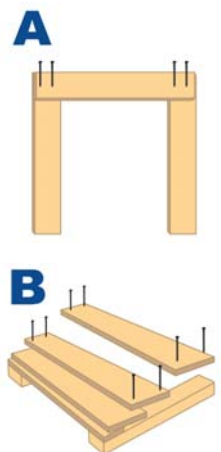


## Measure the height, width and depth of your Styrofoam cooler.

Then read through the project plans and determine how many 1x3, 1x4, 1x6, 2x4 boards and how much plywood (or 1/2" pine) you will need (materials list of boards is an estimate).

## Constructing the sides of the cooler box

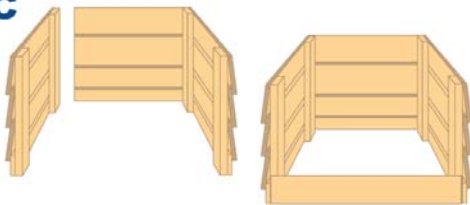
- Add 2" to the height of the cooler. Measure, mark and cut four 2x4s to this length.
- Add 2" to the depth of the cooler. Measure, mark and cut six 1x6s and two 1x4s to this length. Note: Depending upon your cooler's height, you may need to cut more 1x6 pieces.
- Place 2x4s vertically on your workbench. Place one 1x4 horizontally on top of both 2x4s so the 1x4 edges line up flush with the bottom and outer edges of the 2x4s (see image A).  
Glue and nail one 1x4 into place. Repeat this step with the remaining 1x4 and 2x4s. These two pieces make the frame for the sides of the cooler box.
- Nail 1x6 boards up the 2x4s, overlapping each board below by approximately 1" (see image B). Continue until the top 1x6 is flush with the top of the 2x4.



## Constructing the front and back panels of the cooler box

- Add 6-1/2" to the width of the cooler. Measure, mark and cut two 1x4s and six 1x6s to this length.
- Attach one 1x4 to the bottom of both the front and back sides. Attach 1x6s using the same 1" overlapping pattern from Step 2. This completes the front and back panels. You now have a 4-sided box (see image C).

**C**



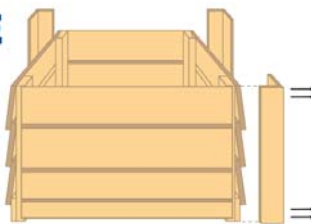
## Creating the cooler box edge “frames”

- Measure the total height of the cooler box at the outside corner. Measure, mark and cut four 1x4s and four 1x3s to this length.
- Place the 1x3 on top of the 1x4, creating a right-angled structure (see image D). Glue and nail one 1x4 to one 1x3 making sure that the top and bottom edges are flush. This is one edge “frame.” Repeat this step for the remaining three sides of the cooler box.
- Fit these pieces against each corner of the cooler box, making sure that the 1x4 is overlapping the longest sides (front and back) of the box. Then drive the pieces into place using deck screws and your drill/driver (see image E).

**D**



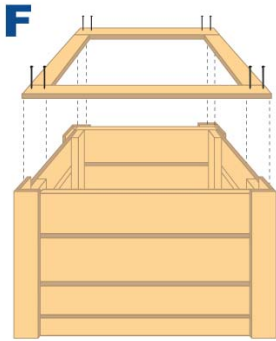
**E**



## Finishing the cooler box body

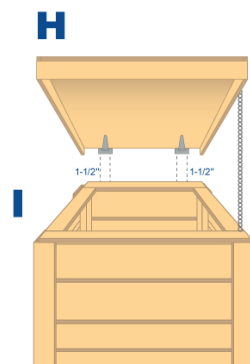
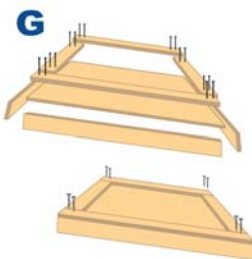
- Measure the width of the top of the box. Measure, mark and cut two 1x3 pieces to this length. Lay these pieces flat along the front and back edge of the cooler box and nail them in place.

- Measure the interior distance between the front and back 1x3 boards. Measure, mark and cut two 1x3 pieces to this length. Lay these pieces flat and flush with the outer edges of the sides and between the 1x3s attached in the previous step to create an interior frame. Use nails to attach them to the box (see image F).



## Constructing the lid of the cooler box

- Measure width and depth of the top of the finished cooler box.
- Add 1/2" to each dimension. Measure, mark and cut a piece of plywood or sheet of 1/2" pine to these dimensions. This is the lid.
- Lay plywood on top of box flush with back of cooler, centering so overhang on each side is even.
- Measure, mark and cut two 1x2s to the length of the side of the lid. Glue and nail the 1x2s flush with the sides of the lid (see image G).
- Measure the width of the lid including the two 1x2s attached. Cut one 1x2 to this length, then nail and glue it to the front of the lid by attaching it to the two 1x2s on the sides. The lid now has a framed edge constructed of 1x2s along the bottom edge.
- Measure the depth of lid with 1x2s attached. Cut two 1x4s to this length. Place these 1x4 pieces flush with the front and back edges of the lid, then attach the 1x4s to the top of the lid with deck screws (see image H).
- Measure the interior distance between the front and back 1x4s. Measure, mark and cut two 1x4s to this length. Attach the two 1x4s in between the front and back 1x4s flush with each side of the lid using deck screws.



### Finishing

- Attach hinges to lid and back of box on the right and left side, leaving approximately 1-1/2" from the outside edge of the box to the outer edge of the hinge (see image I).
- Attach stop chain to inside of box and inside of lid.
- Sand all exterior edges to remove any rough edges.
- Finish with weatherproof paint, stain or varnish.

