

Do-It-Yourself Dog House

by Leo J. Laughlin

Attached to this document are plans for a single dog house. Materials needed are:

1 sheet of 3/4" plywood

1 - 16' 2x4 - treated

Page 3 is the layout of how to cut the plywood. I used Elmer's Wood Carpenter's glue on the joints, and screwed it together with deck screws. That has made a very strong house, and has weather several different dogs. However, I did not attached the top of the dog house to the body. Instead, I used left over 2x4's and screw them to the under side of the top, so that they just slide inside the sides to hold the top onto the dog house. That way I could remove the top to add straw in the winter, or to clean it out, etc. I even have an extra one that holds one bale of straw to keep it dry until its needed in the kennel.

I used the treated 2x4 as a riser for the dog house, to keep it off the concrete, and provide a dry enviornment. Being treated, its okay to sit on the ground or on the cement without being affected too much by the weather. After construction, I would suggest putting shingles on the top, and painting the dog house.

The doorway can be modified to fit your dog. I used the cutout for the door to hold the awning over the doorway. That keeps it from raining in the doorway. While I have tried putting doors on the dog house, the dogs never like it and would rip it off in minutes after being added. So the awning was added from left overs and it does a good job of keeping some of the weather out.

Be sure that the doorway does not go all the way to the floor of the dog house, this is intentional, to help keep the straw in the dog house during the winter. Dogs are adaptable. If you have a smaller dog, it might be good to modify the height of the doorway above the floor. Measure the height of the shoulder from the ground for the top of the door, and measure the height of the chest above the ground, and subtract an inch or two for the height of the bottom of the doorway.

Modify this as you see fit. I just enjoyed the challenge of seeing if I could use all of one sheet of plywood in making a dog house with nothing left but sawdust!



