

Do-It-Yourself Water Broom

by Leo J. Laughlin

The problem with purchased water brooms is they don't have enough velocity and flow rate to wash the dirt away, along with the velocity to loosen the gunk. And the ones I have tried were not the right length, so I would be bending over, hurting my back

I figured that I could make one that would work like I wanted. Most the materials were on hand, the one thing I did need to pick up was a valve to control the water flow. I like ball valves, only 90 degrees of a turn to go from off to on, and there is no reduction in flow rate. The big trick was finding the right nozzle size. I had a bunch of tubing adapter from different projects, all for $\frac{3}{4}$ " pipe. The best was a $\frac{3}{8}$ " tubing (or hose) adapter. This seemed to maximize the velocity of the water, without impeding the flow rate to much.

One usage was to clean the kennel, which needed a good cleaning, but then it is also suppose to be near 100 this week, so I wanted to not only wash it, but wet and cool off the cement on a daily basis.

The water broom worked better than anything I had used before. And putting the nozzle right on the cement so that it would be right where it is needed. It took $\frac{1}{4}$ of the time it did with a jet setting on a garden hose nozzle.

The second part of the trick is to get the right length of PVC pipe. The dimensions are for a 6 foot person. You may need to adjust for you. You will want the nozzle to point slightly downward at the cement, say 5 degrees below horizontal.

Materials needed:

$\frac{3}{4}$ " male pipe adapter

$\frac{3}{4}$ " female pipe adapter

$\frac{3}{4}$ " ball valve

$\frac{3}{4}$ " pipe adapter to garden hose

$\frac{3}{8}$ " tubing adapter to $\frac{3}{4}$ " pipe adapter

$\frac{3}{4}$ " 45 degree elbow

$\frac{3}{4}$ " pipe – 5", 5", and 32" long (or longer for a taller person!)

Glue everything together, (NOTE: have the ball valve in the open position when gluing) except the 32" long pipe, just insert it into the joints, so you can check the length. Of course if you glue it on top, it would work for all. Stand upright holding the water broom in the 5" piece next to the valve. This is where you normally hold it. Check to see that the nozzle is pointing down slightly. Adjust the length of the 32" pipe until it does.

Note: I put the valve on the right size (for a right handed person), you may want it on the left, if you are left handed, or on top for either handedness.

