

Soda Can Stove

You can make different kinds of stoves from materials found around the home. A soda can stove, made from three soda pop cans and rubbing alcohol, can be used indoors or outdoors to cook small amounts of food. It's light-weight and great for back-packers and in emergency kits.

Supplies:

- 3 standard soda pop cans
- Denatured or rubbing alcohol
- Matches or lighter
- 1" x 1.5" x 5" swath of fiberglass insulation (optional)
- Heat resistant foil tape (optional)

Tools:

- Drill
- 1/8" & 1/16" drill bits
- Utility knife
- Scissors
- Straight edge
- Ruler
- Marking pen



Instructions:

1. Score the bottom of one can with the utility knife until it easily pops out.



2. Drill 1/16 inch holes spaced evenly around the bottom ring of the can for the burner. Drill one 1/8 inch hole as a drain for leftover fuel.

3. Using scissors, cut around the edge of the drilled end of the can until it is one inch high all the way around. This is the top of the stove. Cut another one inch base from a second can. This is the bottom of the stove.



4. On the top can, cut slits up from the bottom, stopping 1/8 inch from the top. This piece will now fit inside the bottom can with some careful pressure.

5. Carefully slide top and bottom pieces temporarily together. Measure from top to bottom (between the arrows) to get the width of the inner shield.

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6. Use a straight edge and utility knife to cut a strip from the third can to the width measured in Step 5.
7. Place the inner shield into the base of the stove to get the correct circular measurement. Then cut opposite slits and join the ends together forming a ring.
8. Cut about three notches on the bottom of the inner shield to allow fuel to flow into the outer ring.
9. Place the inner shield in the base. Place the optional fiberglass in the space between the inner shield and the outer wall of the base.



10. Slide the top half into the bottom half of the stove. Be careful to fit the inner shield into the inner lip of the top and bottom halves of the stove. If there is any over hang from the bottom half, crimp the edges over with your thumb or a screw driver. You may use the heat resistant foil tape to cover the seams between the top and bottom halves of the stove to help prevent leaks.

11. Completed stove.



Add no more than 2 ounces of alcohol to the center of the stove and light it. The stove lights promptly, so be careful. You won't see an alcohol flame in daylight. It takes about a minute for the alcohol to heat up and achieve an even burn out of the burner holes. Cover the stove with a larger can to put out the flame. To cook, support a pot of food or water 1.5 inches to 2 inches above the stove. One ounce of fuel lasts a little longer than 5 minutes, just long enough to boil 12 ounces of water.

Practice fire safety indoors and out. Have fire extinguishers ready.

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