

How to Make All Kinds Fire Starters

Frugal Way#1

Just dip a cotton pad into the spent wax and let it dry on a piece of wax paper. I kept a small area free of wax for easy fire starting. I've also seen them cut or torn before lighting. It doesn't take much wax to make your DIY fire starters, so keep a few cotton pads close and make them as you go.



Cotton pads dipped in melted wax

Frugal Way#2

Is an idea from *Hunting Outdoor News* in their article 12 Ideas for “Making your Own Fire Starters”. Save your old cardboard. Cut it into 3”x 3” pieces. Dip them in wax and let them dry. They stack easily for storage. I always have extra cardboard around, how about you?



Pieces of cardboard dipped in wax

Frugal Way#3

Make a Twisted Newspaper Fire Starter. Using newspaper to get a blaze going usually results in just another flash in the fireplace. An old-fashioned solution is these newspaper twists. Tightly roll a sheet of newspaper, bend it in half, twist the ends together, and fasten with twine.



Twisted and tied newspaper

Frugal Way#4

Is a standby from my Girl Guide days. I remember making these from supplies that everyone has around the house. Egg cartons, shredded paper or dryer lint and candle wax. I think I have enough shredded paper to make 1000 of these. One drawback – this method uses the most wax.



The Girl Guides standby – egg carton, shredded paper and wax

Frugal Way #5

Cut a toilet paper roll in half. Stuff dryer lint into each piece. Roll it up in wax paper and twist the ends to close. Use the wax paper as the wick.



Recycle these three simple items into a fire starter: Toilet paper roll, dryer lint and waxed Paper

From dryer lint to fluffy cotton balls, it's easy to make your own firestarters.

When it's been down pouring rain for several days and you're desperate to get the campfire going, having a good fire starter to help get things going can be extremely comforting.

Yes, there's plenty of natural material in the bush to help ignite your fire—birch bark, dried grass, cattail fluff, and resin from a balsam tree are some of the best—but having homemade back-ups stored in your pack and always available can be an extra bonus. Even if you don't make them at home, you always have plenty of flammable materials in your pack as well.

Dryer Lint & Egg Cartons

The classic homemade fire starter is a wad of dryer lint placed in each empty storage department of a cardboard egg carton with melted wax, or better yet, melted paraffin wax poured over top. It's an easy project and brings back days of making crafts in public school. The main trick, however, is to melt the wax without burning the house down or ruining your good cooking pot. Wax or paraffin wax is highly flammable so don't just throw a cube of it in a pot and heat up over the stove burner. To slow down the melting rate, and reduce the chance of combustion, make a double burner by having the pot with the wax in it above another pot of water. The simmering water will melt the wax at a much slower and safer rate. And you might want to use an old coffee can rather than a cooking pot to melt the wax in. Melted wax makes a real mess to clean up. If you don't want to spend the money on paraffin then simply gather all the half-burned candles in the house (or go to a bargain store). Sawdust, shredded paper or even cut-up pieces of egg carton top work well as filler. Also, try dipping in rolled up newspaper tied with string (don't use nylon string) or pine cones into the wax to make fire starters.

Cotton Balls & Vaseline

Cotton balls are my favourite. They're lightweight and when Vaseline or "petroleum jelly" is worked into the ball, it becomes highly flammable. I've even dipped them in paraffin wax or even melted Vaseline and stored them in my pack in a Ziploc bag. If you're on trip and you don't have cotton balls or Vaseline but you do have Q-tips and lip balm, try those together.

Hand Sanitizer

Squeeze a good supply of hand sanitizer on the wood and it will burn long enough to dry things out. Make sure the product you are using, however, contains alcohol. Some companies are now making alcohol-free sanitizer and that won't work.

Charcoal in an Egg Carton

Place a chunk of charcoal in each section of cardboard egg carton. Light the carton—you might want to squeeze hand sanitizer or bug repellent on it first to help get it going.

Waxed Paper & Dyer lint

Waxed paper burns fantastic on its own but you can also wrap-up dryer lint or sawdust on paper, twisting both ends of the paper to hold the contents. Remember, it may look like a doobie—but definitely doesn't get you high.

Chips

The greasier the better when choosing which snacking chip will burn the best. But trust me, they do burn. Pringles Hot and Spicy, Doritos Spicy Nachos and Fritos Corn Chips are my choice. And once the fire is going, it's snack time

Duct Tape

Yes, one more thing you can do with Duct Tape. Use it for a fire starter. It's highly flammable and burns for a good chunk of time. I'll spray bug repellent or squeeze some hand sanitizer on it as well, just to get things going.

Rubber Tubing

It's probably the most toxic fire starter on the list but it's still effective. When your bike gets a flat, keep it and cut it into strips. Just don't breathe in the fumes when its ignited.

How to Make a Fire Starter Using a Straw

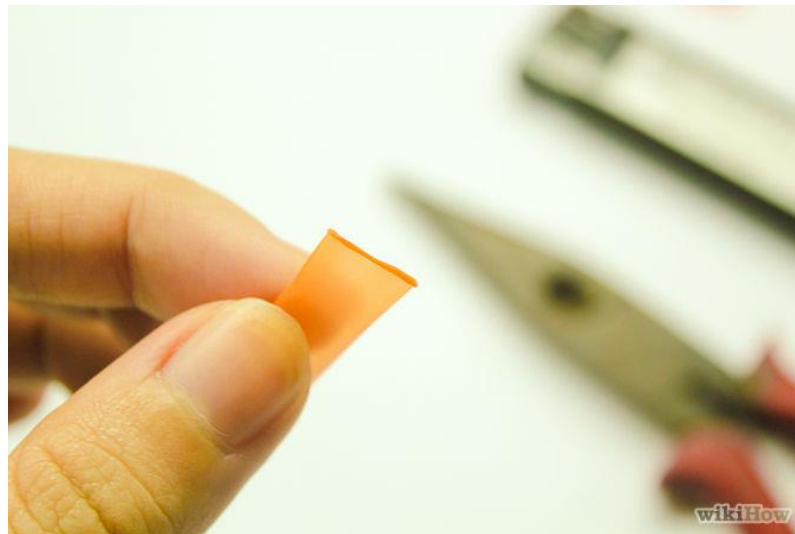
Planning a camping adventure in the woods with the family and forgot your pre-treated wood burning logs for the campfire at home? If your “rubbing two sticks together” skills aren’t up to snuff, have no fear. You can create a firestarter-to-go, using just a few simple items you're likely to have to hand.



Cut the drinking straw in half and seal one end. That way, the fire starters are more portable and can easily travel with your camping gear.



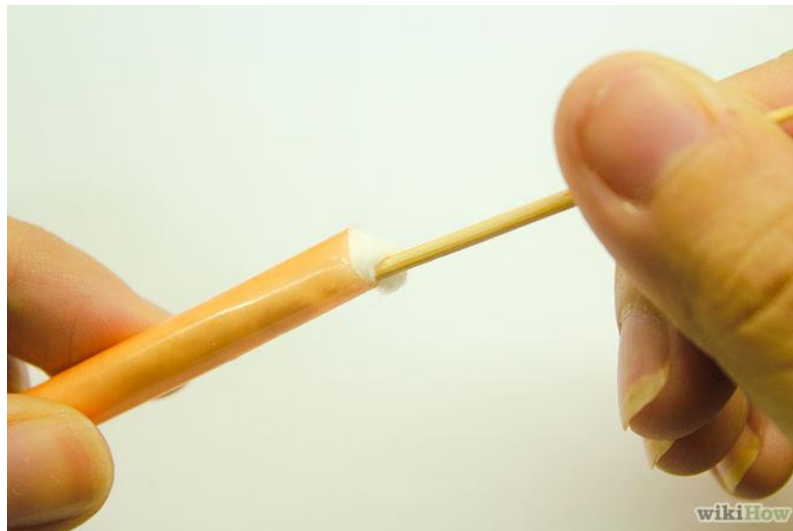
Pinch the end of the cut straw with pliers and hold your lighter to the end. Melt slightly to seal the straw completely closed.



Check the end to make sure it is fully sealed. The heat should have fused it together so after you remove the lighter, allow it to set for a few minutes and then inspect to ensure it has sealed.



Mince the cotton makeup remover pad into a small heap. Mix the cotton fibers with Vaseline (or any petroleum jelly). For quick mincing, use scissors to get the process started. '



Place a small amount of the cotton-Vaseline mixture at the top of the straw (the unused end) and then use your stick to push it down inside the straw. Make sure it reaches the end of the straw.). Push as much of this mixture as possible into the straw.



Repeat this step until you have enough cotton to fill the small straw. Just be sure to leave enough room at the top of the straw so that you can fuse it together.



Pinch the other end of the straw together. Light the end to fuse it closed. This will seal the cotton inside the straw and provide you with a great, portable fire starter.



Avoid burning the straw end—hold the lighter a few inches (centimeters) away from the straw end.



Finished!