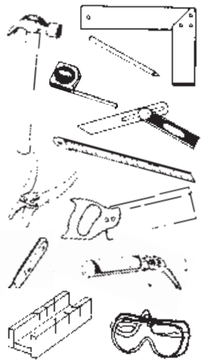
MIGHTY TOOLS FOR YOUR MITREPLAN



Mitre drop saw, or panel saw and mitre box
Cement sheet cutters, or score and snap knife
Wire cutters
Cordless drill and drill bits
Phillips head screw bit
Caulking gun
Bevel gauge
Carpenters square
Roofing square
Straight edge
Tape measure
Hammer
Safety goggles
Earmuffs

✓ MIGHTY HELPFUL CHECKLIST

		ORDER
	Timber	
	Pine framing 90 x 35 treated pine lengths = 1/2.7m	
	Pine framing 70 x 35 treated pine	
	Pine lengths required: 5/2700 = 2.7m 4/2100 = 2.1m	
	Hardiplank 5 lineal metres 230mm	
	Hardware	
	Chicken wire 4 metres 1200 x 25 x 1.4mm	
	Galvanised staples 1 packet 25 x 2.8mm	
	Butt hinges 4 75mm (galvanised)	
	Phillips head wood screws (galvanised) 1 packet 75mm x 8g	
	Slide bolt 2 small	
	Flat sheet nails 1 packet 50 x 1.8mm	
	Aluminium flyscreen (optional) 4 metres 1200mm wide	
	Cement sheeting 1800 x 900	
	Mitre 10 gap sealant	

Verbal quotes are indicative only. Written quotes on materials are available upon request from your Mitre 10 store.

MIGHTY HELPFUL HINTS TO MAKE THE JOB EASIER

- To prevent timber splitting, pre-drill and countersink all screw holes.
- Lubricate long screws with paraffin wax from a candle.
- Most cordless drills have a clutch system, use it to control screw depth.
- Remember that timber is a natural product and varies throughout its length. Work around the naturally occurring knots to ensure that there are no knots or splits in a joint and cut the 1800mm rails from a straight section of the length of pine.
- Gap sealant is a quick way of waterproofing screw heads and any gaps in the finished joints before painting.
- When hanging the doors, put one screw in each hinge then shut the door and check for position. If it is not right, you can make minor adjustments to the position of the door with a screw in the remaining holes. Fill the original hole with a match and PVA wood glue, then replace the screw in the correct position.
- Use a stop on your mitre saw to ensure that all components are accurately cut.
- Use eye and ear protection at all times.

Build your own animal hutch

IMPORTANT: This project planner has been produced to provide basic information and our experienced staff are available to answer any questions you may have. However, this information is provided for use on the understanding that Mitre 10 is not liable for any loss or damage which is suffered or incurred (including but not limited to indirect or consequential loss), for any personal injury or damage to property suffered or sustained as a result of using the information contained in this MitrePlan Project Planner. Mitre 10 advises you to call in a qualified tradesperson, such as an electrician or plumber, where expert services are required, and to independently assess any safety precautions that will need to be followed prior to using the information in this MitrePlan Project Planner.

WARNING: There may be by laws or regulations of councils or other statutory bodies that you must comply with when following this MitrePlan Project Planner.

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Your local MITRE 10 Store is:

MITREPLAN PROJECT PLANNER

Build your own animal hutch

- **An easy-to-follow guide to achieving a perfect result.**
- **Outlines all the tools you will need for the job.**
- **Includes a materials checklist.**

PLEASE NOTE:
Before starting this project or buying any materials, it is worth your time to read all steps thoroughly first to be sure you understand what is required.

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Build a secure home for your pet – with help from Mitre 10.

Have you ever thought about keeping a pet? With proper care and attention, a pet will soon become housetrained and tame. Keeping pets starts with a secure animal hutch.

For our MitrePlan we have followed the RSPCA recommendation of 180 x 90 x 90cm as being the ideal sized hutch to house two small pets.

The hutch is completely enclosed with wire mesh, with access through a sturdy door. There is a warm dry nesting box, with full access for easy cleaning. The hutch is portable and can be carried out onto the lawn to provide a green pick for your pet. It even doubles as an environmentally friendly lawnmower.

All that you will need to build the hutch is a basic DIY toolkit, and a little knowledge of how to use it.

Step 1: Construction

Using the back of the cement sheeting, draw a 900mm baseline, and square a line up from the centre point. Draw two 900mm lines from the ends of the baseline to meet at the centreline; these are the side frames. Draw in the frame timber profiles and joint details from Fig 1. Allowing for a 5mm gap inside the frame, draw in the full size door plan complete with joint details.

During the construction process, refer to this plan to mark all angles, sizes and joints directly to the timber.

Step 2: Base frame construction

All framing is from 70 x 35mm treated pine, all joints are screwed.

Cut 3 cross members by taking the angle and length directly from the full size set out.

Mark the position of the three cross members on both 1800mm side rails and the ridge, remembering that the two end cross members are set back 35mm from the end of each rail. Fig 2.

Fix side rails as Fig 2.

Cut 8 side frame pieces to the size and shape as indicated on the full size set out.

Attach the 4 end side frame pieces in position and fit the 90 x 35mm ridge, ensuring the frame is square. Fix the remaining 4 sidepieces checking that everything is square and symmetrical.

Build 2 doors from set out, with joint detail from Fig 3.

Step 3: Using cement sheet

- Cut and fit the nesting box floor panel
- Cover the rear door frame
- Cut and fit the front dividing panel to the nesting box. To cut out the entranceway, score the cement sheet and nibble the waste with wire cutters or pliers.

If your animal hutch is to be kept in the weather then it is advisable to paint all external timber with an oil-based undercoat and topcoat. First fill all screw holes and gaps with gap sealant.

Fix flyscreen if appropriate, with tacks or staple tacker.

To fix the chicken wire, start at the base and staple the wire around the frame in one piece.

Cut and staple chicken wire to the front door frame.

Now fix the Hardiplank cladding to the sides of the nesting box starting 20mm from the bottom of the base frame. Allow about 45mm overlap on each sheet. This should bring the top sheet flush with the top of the frame. Cut a strip of Hardiplank to cover the gap between the two top sheets, fix and seal with Mitre 10 Gap Sealant.

Paint the Hardiplank cladding.

Hinge the two doors to the base frame rail and fit the slide bolts.

To prepare the nesting box, cover the entire floor with enough thicknesses of newspaper to provide an absorbent moisture barrier. Line with fresh straw or shredded paper, and place a cat litter tray in the corner.

Ask your local pet shop for advice on the best type of water dispenser for your hutch, and fix it according to instructions.

Fig. 1

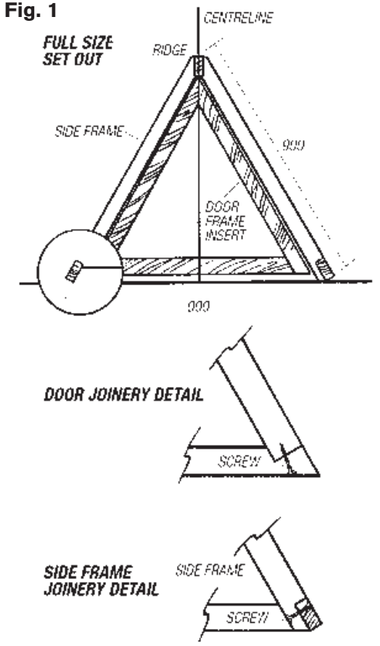

Fig. 2

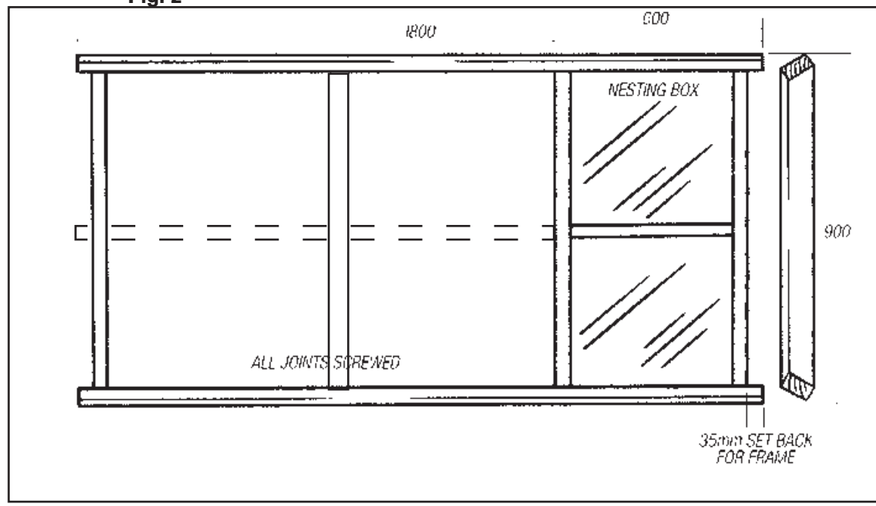
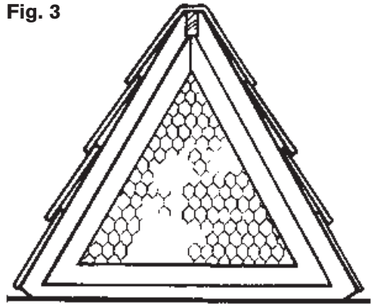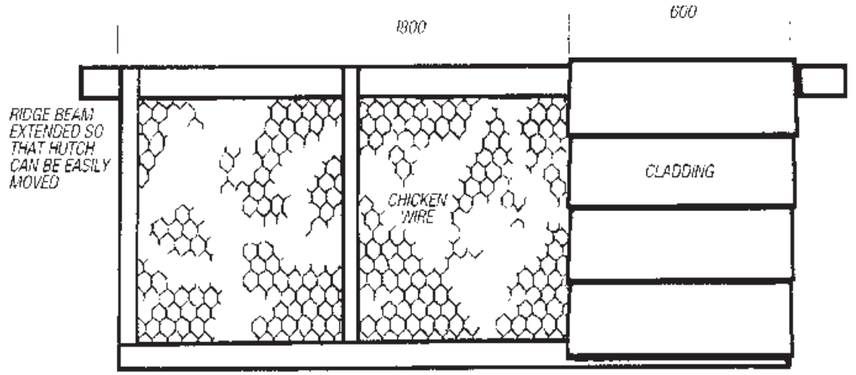
Fig. 3