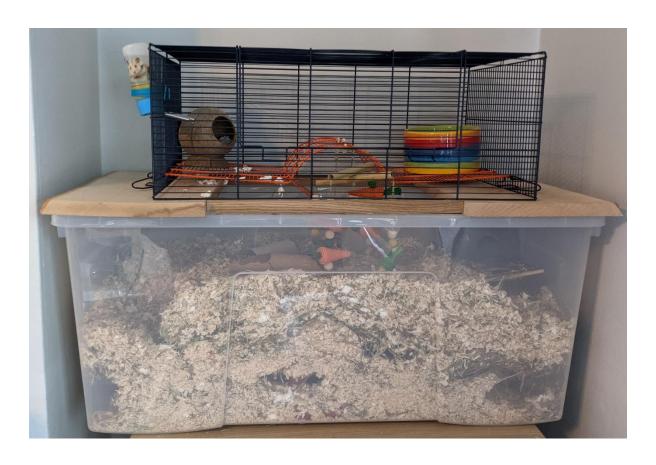


EASY DIY gerbil cage



Tools you will need:

- 1. <u>Safety equipment</u> (e.g. eye protection, face mask)
- 2. Workbench (or somewhere to safely hold the wood while you cut it)
- 3. Pencil (for marking)
- 4. PVA glue or U-nails (for attaching topper to platform)
- 5. Hammer
- 6. Saw
- 7. <u>Drill</u> (6mm drill bit or appropriate size for your dowels)

Cage pieces:

- 1. <u>Large plastic tub for base</u> (ideally 0.5m² [775 inches²] floorspace, the closer you can get to this number, the better) the largest tub I could find in the UK [0.329m²] (https://amzn.to/3nB85wV)
- 2. <u>Large tank topper</u> the largest I could find with a suitable sized door came part of a complete gerbilarium (https://amzn.to/3nDRxnY)
- 3. Gerbil-safe wood planks x2 (for edges) I used 2x beech wood planks from B&Q (https://bit.ly/3mO6G65)
- 4. <u>Gerbil-safe wood strips (to join planks)</u> You'll need two pieces to allow extra length for securing the topper to the platform and/or for securing the platform to the base I used <u>oak stripwood</u> from B&Q (there isn't a link online to the one I used, I got it in store; dimensions are: (L) 900mm, (W) 21mm, (T) 15mm)
- Wooden dowels (to connect wood pieces) I used 6mm dowels from B&Q (https://bit.ly/3GV50zv)

STEP 1



If you are using 2 pieces of stripwood then arrange the pieces like shown and measure the length you need to cut the strips to.

STEP 2



Find the centre point of the stripwood by drawing and X connecting the corners. Drill a hole approximately half the length of your dowels (in our case this would be 15mm) at this centre point.



STEP 3

Assemble the pieces (with cut stripwood) as shown in step 1 and mark the edges on the wood planks. Then find the centre point and drill a hole the same as before (also half the dowel length).

STEP 4



Insert 4 dowels into the ends of the stripwood pieces, then assemble as shown, you can add a little PVA glue into the holes for added security, make sure to wipe away any excess.

STEP 5



Now all that's left to do is secure the topper to the platform! A simple way to do this is to cut 8 pieces of stripwood (4 pieces shorter than other 4), and glue them with PVA glue at the corners. If you have animals such as cats/dogs living in the house, for more security you should also secure the topper to the wood with U-nails, you should also attach stripwood pieces to the underneath edge of the platform at the corners of the tubs to keep the platform secure on the tub.