

## Do-It-Yourself Small Pet Housing

**Think about what you want and what is best for your small pet, then sketch out a plan.**

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Posted: April 2, 2008, 5 a.m. EDT

When it comes to housing for small animals, many owners are determined to build their own. If you are so determined—and talented—here are a few things to keep in mind:

1. Use sturdy, quality materials. Don't skimp! If you're going to go to the trouble of building a rabbit hutch, do it right.
2. Use only safe materials. Be careful of paints, preservatives, sharp wire or nails.
3. Plan ahead. Go to the library, or purchase a book that contains housing plans. Think about what you want and what is best for your pet. Sketch out a plan and buy materials, then begin construction.
4. Build the cage so it is secure from the possibility of escape.
5. Before you introduce the animal to its hand-crafted home, make sure all paint is dry, all loose nails and bits of wire are removed, and all latches are working properly.