

# Bear-Resistant Trash Can Caddy: Slated Design



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The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission offers the following design for areas with frequent bear visits. Some photos show the caddy built with untreated lumber. It is recommended to use pressure-treated wood and/or use sealant for longer-life and lower maintenance. These instructions should enable a person with some woodworking experience to construct the caddy with minimal difficulty. Experienced woodworkers may prefer slightly different methods. FWC encourages people to try modifications and variations and contact us ([BearManagement@MyFWC.com](mailto: BearManagement@MyFWC.com)) with their results so we can pass them on to others. The caddy was designed to accommodate one 95 gallon plastic garbage can.

## **Required Materials:**

### **Quantity:**

26  
4  
1  
2  
2  
2.5 lbs.  
2 lbs.  
1  
2

### **Materials:**

2" x 4" x 8' Pressure Treated Lumber  
4" x 4" x 8' Pressure Treated Landscape Timbers  
4' x 8' x 1/2" Plywood Sheet  
5" Heavy Duty Lockable Latches  
Heavy Duty Door Hinges  
3" Deck Screws  
2" Deck Screws  
Door Handle  
Concrete or Deadman Anchors (for setting posts)  
Caribeeners or locking fasteners (for latches)

**Approximate materials cost: \$170.00**

**Quantity:****Tools and Optional Items:**

1	Water Sealant or Paint (to protect caddy)
1	Circular Saw
1	Table Saw
1	Framing Square
1	Hand Drill
1	Tape Measure
1	Eye/Hearing Protection
1	Post Hole Digger
2	½" Spacers (made from scrap wood)
1	Level

**Lumber Cuts****2" x 4" x 8'**

Pieces #1 – #24: (48) 2"x4"x40" long pieces (slates)

Piece #25A: (1) 2"x4"x40" (slate)

Piece #25B: (2) 2"x2"x8' which will be cut into (2) 2"x2"x46" (door braces) and (2) 2"x2"x4" (door braces) long pieces

Piece #26: (2) 2"x2"x8' which will be cut into (3) 2"x2"x40" (door braces and bar above door) and (1) 2"x2"x36" (door brace)

**4' x 8' x ½" Plywood**

(1) 50"x40"x½" (door)

Assembly is best done on a flat, solid surface like a concrete pad or driveway. If assembling inside a workshop, be sure the exit door is large enough to allow the fully constructed caddy to pass through (approx. finished size 40"x40"x8'). Two people are recommended during the assembly process. Depending on ability and experience, it will take about 6 hours to assemble the caddy. The unit will be heavy (150 lbs. or more) and cumbersome when assembled and will take 2 or 3 people to move it to the installation site and to install.

**STEP 1:**

Cut (25) 2"x4"x8' boards to make (49) 2"x4"x40" boards.



**STEP 2:**

Place (2) 4"x4"x8' landscape timbers parallel to each other, 40" apart to outside edges.

Begin securing 2"x4"x40" boards perpendicular to the 4"x4"x8' landscape timbers using 3" screws, ensuring the first 2"x4"x40" is flush with the top edge of both 4"x4"x8' landscape timbers.



Use a framing square to verify the 4"x4"x8' landscape timbers and the 2"x4"x40" boards are square to each other and then verify that 4"x4"x8' landscape timbers are still 40" apart along their entire length.

Use the (2) 1/2" spacers to set the position of the next 2"x4"x40" board.

Continue until there are (13) 2"x4"x40" boards attached to both 4"x4"x8' landscape timbers, completing one side of the caddy.



**STEP 3:**

Repeat STEP 2 to make the opposite side of the caddy.



**STEP 4:**

Place both completed sides parallel to one another 40" apart and perpendicular to the ground on their edge and using 3" screws attach (1) 2"x4"x40" board to the skyward facing edge of the landscape timbers to connect the sides.

Using 3" screws attach a total of (13) 2"x4"x40" boards using the 1/2" spacers and framing square to complete the back side of the caddy.



## STEP 5:

Start at the **front** of the caddy (side without boards attached) and using  $\frac{1}{2}$ " spacers and 3" screws begin attaching the remaining (10) 2"x4"x40" boards from front to back to make the top (roof) of the caddy.



## STEP 6:

Cut (1) 50"x40"x $\frac{1}{2}$ " plywood piece to make the door.



Next cut the last 2"x4"x8' (piece #26) and the remainder of piece #25 in half length-wise to make (2) 2"x2"x8' and (2) 2"x2"x56" boards, a table saw works best for these cuts.

*NOTE: Determine which way the door should swing open before proceeding with next steps. Some people have found using a temporary support made of a scrap 40" board along the bottom edge of the door opening useful. It should be removed after full assembly is completed.*

To frame the 50"x40" plywood door, complete the following:

Cut (2) 2"x2"x40" braces and use 3" screws to attach them along the top and bottom of the back of the plywood door, flush with edges.

Cut (1) 2"x2"x36" braces and use 3" screws to horizontally attach it in the middle of the back of the plywood door.

Cut (2) 2"x2"x46" braces and use 3" screws to attach them along the sides of the back of the plywood door, flush with edges.

Cut and set aside (2) 2"x2"x4" braces to use them as the backings for the door clasps (will attach in a future step).



## STEP 7:

Cut (1) 2"x2"x40" to make a bar that the plywood door will close beneath to prevent a bear from grabbing the top of the door, use 3" screws to attach flush along the top.

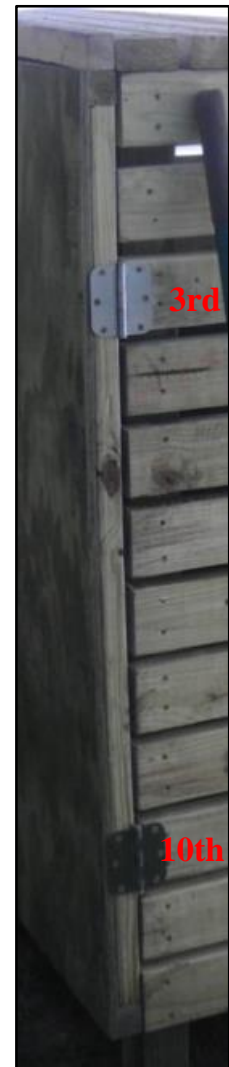


Line up and use 3" screws to attach one end of the hinges to the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> 2"x4"x40" boards from the top on the one side of the caddy.

Place top of door along the bottom edge of the upper bar, allowing for very little space.

*NOTE: Make sure you have enough ground clearance to open the caddy door after it is mounted in the ground.*

Then attach other end of hinge to 2"x2"x46" brace edge of the door.



On the opposite side of the caddy from the hinges, line up the handle to the desired height and use package provided screws, to attach it to the plywood door along the 2"x2"x46" brace on the door interior.

Next, line up the lockable latches and use 3" screws to attach the attachment end into the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> board from the top on the opposite side of the caddy from the hinges.







Then use the (2) 2"x2"x4" braces on the door interior as backing to secure the other part of the lockable latch to the door in a position that lines up with the other latch components installed on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> boards.

#### STEP 8:

Dig (4) holes at least 44" deep to match the 4"x4"x8' landscape timber legs.

If using 'deadman anchors' to secure legs instead of concrete, attach them to the landscape timbers now. Additionally, the holes will need to be dug wide enough to accommodate anchors.

In areas with low bear activity, simply repacking and tamping the dirt around legs should be sufficient. In high bear activity areas, secure legs in holes with either concrete or deadman anchors to prevent tipping.

The caddy can be installed with the bottom 2"x4"x40" boards directly on ground or slightly (1"-2") above ground. The smaller the gap the less area for a bear to get a grip.



Level the caddy as appropriate.

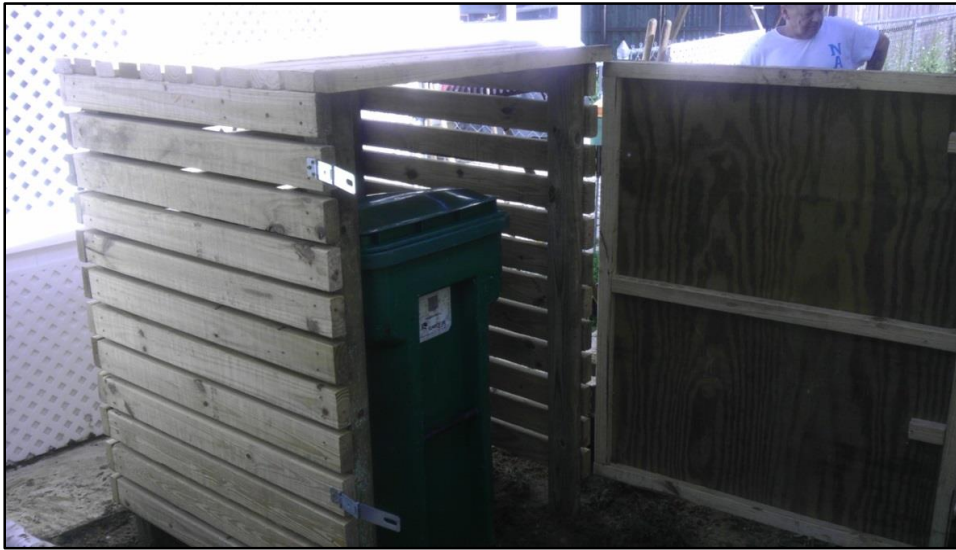
**TIPS:**

Use sealant or paint to protect shed from weathering.

Use caribeeners or other locking fasteners to secure door latches.

Wash down the caddy and garbage cans occasionally to reduce any lingering odors that could attract bears.

**Completed Bear Resistant Trashcan Caddy**



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