

Vagabond or Hobo Stove

The hobo stove has been used since the Great Depression when many were traveling from job to job. It is easy to make, lightweight and other cooking supplies can be stored inside. Fuel can be pencil sized sticks, 3-4 charcoal briquettes in a tuna can or a buddy burner (see below). Heating temperature can be adjusted by airflow to the fuel. Turning the bottom door into the wind will give the fuel more air, burn faster and produce more heat. If you are using wood you will need more sticks. Remember the whole stove will get hot! Let it cool completely before packing up.

Directions for making a Hobo Stove

All these materials will be provided at camp.

1. Start with an empty #10 can or 3lb coffee can, with a tin snips cut a 4" square (doesn't need to be exact but large enough to slide a tuna can in and out or add fuel to a fire) door at the bottom or open end of the can. See picture.
2. Punch 4-6 vent holes around the top or closed end of the can with the can opener, not close to the door.



Variation

These materials will not be provided at camp.

You can alter the stove a bit if you don't have a tin snips to cut a door and wish to use charcoal. This stove has the open end of the can on the top and a square of hardware cloth to hold the pot and the charcoal inside on more hardware cloth.



Buddy Burner

All these materials will be provided at camp.

1. Start with a tuna or cat food can. Cut cardboard strips as wide as the can is tall. Roll the cardboard tightly to fill the can. Fill with melted wax, leaving a bit of cardboard sticking up to act as a wick. You can recharge the fuel by adding bits of wax to a hot burner to melt. Leave the burner to cool completely letting the wax harden.