

Brush Tailed Possum Box



Materials required

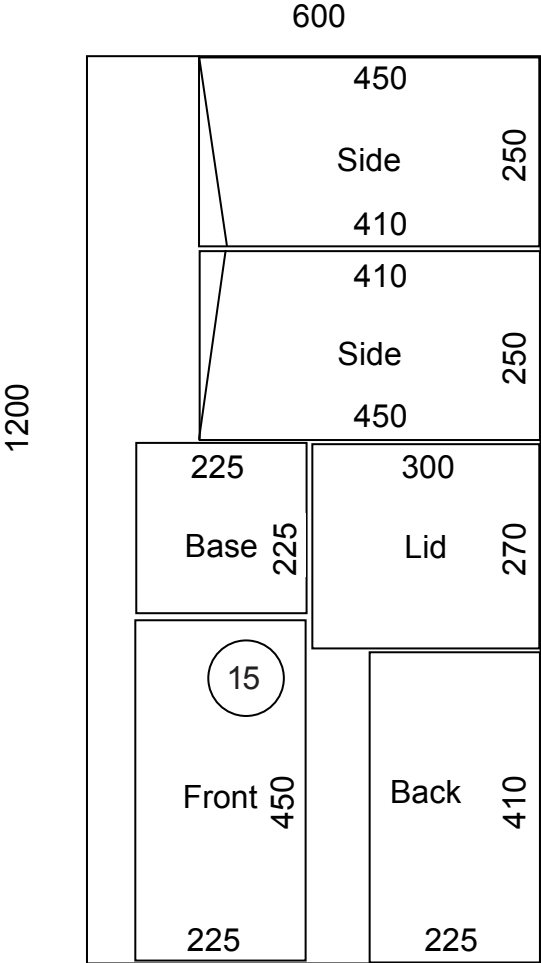
A 600mm x 1200mm sheet of 12.5mm thick exterior quality plywood
 30 x 25mm galvanized self drilling wood screws
 4 x 25mm galvanized eyebolts

Approximate Costs

Plywood	\$38
Eyebolts	\$5
Screws	\$3
Total	\$46

PLUS a 40cm piece of shadcloth
 or mesh for inside the box

Cutting plan



Assembly

1. Carefully measure and cut the ply as shown in the cutting plan above. If you write "front", "back", "lid" etc on the pieces as you cut them it makes the final assembly much easier.
2. Mark a point 100mm down and 100mm in from the edge of the "front" and draw a 75mm radius circle (150 mm diameter). If you don't have a compass, a CD is 120mm in diameter and makes an excellent template for the hole, or use a small plate or other round item around that size.
3. Glue or staple the 40cm strip of mesh or shadecloth to the inside of the "front" piece. This allows small animals to escape if they fall into the box.
4. Drill a starter hole and cut out the entrance hole with a jigsaw.
5. Drill four drainage holes in the base. 5-7mm is a good size for drainage.
6. Pre-drilling the screw holes prevents the wood from splitting during assembly. Mark a line 6mm from either side, and also 6mm from the bottom of the two side pieces. Drill 3 holes equally spaced along each of these lines using a 3mm drill. Make sure that the top hole is at least 30mm from the top edge so that you don't have problems when you screw on the lid.
7. The screw holes for the lid require more complicated measurements. The lid is intended to overhang on 3 sides (not on the side that sits against the tree trunk). Two sides overhang slightly more than the third. To drill the holes for the lid:
 - a. First mark "front" on one of the 270mm edges of the lid.
 - b. Measure 40mm from this front edge and draw a line for the screw holes. Drill one hole only in the center of this line.
 - c. On the opposite edge (the back of the lid) draw a line 15mm from the edge and drill a single hole in the centre of the line.
 - d. On one of the side edges draw a line 6mm from the edge and drill 3 holes evenly spaced between the front and back screw lines. Mark this edge "Trunk".
 - e. On the other side draw a line 27mm from the edge and drill 3 holes evenly spaced between the front and back screw lines.
8. To drill the holes for the eyebolts. Draw a line 15mm from the long edge of the front, on the same side as the entrance hole. Drill one 5mm hole 40mm from the bottom and one 5mm hole 300mm from the bottom along this line.
9. Repeat step 7 for the back. The eyebolt holes can be drilled on either side of the back section.
10. Insert the eyebolts into the front and back and tighten the nuts with a spanner. It is easier to do this before the box is screwed together.
11. Before each piece is screwed together, run a line of wood glue along the joint.
12. Stand the front piece and one of the side pieces on a bench and screw them together.
13. Screw the second side piece to the front.
14. Insert the base and screw it to the three sides.
15. Screw the back to the sides and the base making sure that the eyebolts in the back are lined up with the eyebolts in the front.
16. Screw on the lid making sure that the side that doesn't overhang lines up with the eyebolts. This is the side that will sit against the tree trunk.
17. You are all done. A light coat of a water based paint on the outside will prolong its life.