



Double 32-Gallon Bear-Proof Refuse Container

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BACKGROUND

Bear-proofing refuse containers continues to be a priority in forests that have bear habitat. In response to a recreation project request submittal by Debbie Kriegel from the Coronado National Forest in Region 3, San Dimas Technology and Development Center (SDTDC) has developed the double 32-gallon bear-proof refuse and recycling container that complements the bear-proof food locker previously developed by SDTDC and currently available on the open market.

The bear-proof refuse container model shown in figure 1 has been tested successfully at the Sequoia-Kings National Parks under the direction of Harold Werner, Fish and Wildlife Biologist. This refuse container is a hybrid of a bear-proof 32-gallon lid that was originally designed and successfully used by the Forest Service and the National Park Service for many years.

THE NEW DOUBLE REFUSE CONTAINER

The current model has been designed with 2 - 32-gallon containers which doubles the capacity and adds a built-in recycling option. Each container may be accessed by pulling down on the counter-balanced lid which requires less than three pounds of force to open. The lids counter-balanced design ensures that the lid is always in the closed position. The lid works similarly to a mailbox design

with the half of the lid on the inside always closing access to the container as the refuse is deposited. When the lid is released the refuse or recyclables drop into the container below.

The refuse storage area has been designed with a single hinged door which eliminates all lifting of heavy refuse lids. A bear-proof latch is used to provide access into the refuse container storage area for servicing. This refuse container complements the bear-proof food locker in design and fabrication.



Figure 1. Double 32 gallon bear-proof refuse container test model at SDTDC with plastic recycling option in closed position.



The container is fabricated from heavy duty 10 gauge steel and is fully welded at all critical points. The compartment door is welded on with a heavy duty stainless steel piano hinge allowing easy access for maintenance, see figure 2. The container is primed and painted inside and out with two coats of high quality, high solids enamel for long life. The projected service life of this product is 30 to 50 years under heavy use with periodic maintenance. The empty weight of the unit is approximately 450 pounds.



Figure 2. Double 32-gallon bear-proof refuse container test model at SDTDC in open position.

INSTALLATION

This unit is mounted on four 3-inch high legs that are retrofitted with bolt down flanges to keep bears from tipping the container over. The container may be bolted onto a 4 inch slab with deepened footings at each corner or just bolted on individual concrete footings, one for each leg. The recommended size of the concrete footing is 12 inch x 12 inch x 12 inch with an 8-inch long, 3/8-inch diameter anchor bolt.

The inside of the refuse containers can be steel or plastic depending on the preference of the maintenance manager. This container system has been designed to work as a stand-alone refuse container or as a complementary recycling unit.

SAFETY

The container is equipped with an inside safety handle that can be opened with less than two pounds of force. This insures that children will not be locked inside.

PRODUCT SOURCE INFORMATION

A SDTDC schematic drawing with materials list is included for information.

These containers are currently available through Boxmaster Inc. Please contact the manufacturer for current pricing.

NOTE: Container decals on Figure 1 are not part of the fabrication cost.

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