



Plastic cover stops leaves from clogging gutter; leaves dry up and then blow away.

Gutter Drainer Stops Overflow

There's a cheap and simple way to stop leaves and other debris from clogging up eaves troughs, according to the manufacturer of "Gutter Drainer."

Made from stiff plastic, the three-sided strip is placed inside an eaves trough with the open side down, forming a protected channel for water to flow through. The bottom edges of the plastic have cutaway teeth that let water through but not debris.

Once the rain stops, the exposed debris lying on the surface of the Gutter Drainer dries in the sun and the wind can then blow it off the smooth plastic surface. In winter, Gutter Drainer blocks out snow, absorbs heat from the sun, and keeps the channel open.

It is available in rolls of various lengths and comes with "hold down clips." The product fits in all gutters and installs in minutes. This eaves trough liner comes with a 10-year replacement warranty against defects and breakage, plus a one-year money back guarantee.

It is priced as follows: 25-ft. rolls - \$30 (1.20 per foot); 50-ft. rolls - \$57.50 (\$1.15 per foot); 100-ft. rolls - \$110 (\$1.10 per foot); and 200-ft. rolls - \$210 (1.05 per foot). Shipping and handling is \$6 extra.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Martrek, W5708 County T, Watertown, Wis. 53094 (ph 920 261-8210; fax 920 262-9619).

Simple Safe Protects Valuables

Good safes can cost a lot of money, and less expensive safes aren't always safe, says Jeff Yago, who came up with an "almost free" do-it-yourself idea for a safe that's ideal for documents, family photos, and computer disks.

"Most inexpensive personal safes sold today have warnings in small print stating that during a fire they cannot protect computer disks," says Yago, an engineer and author.

Even without the risk to electronic data, small personal safes can be at risk of being carried away by floods, tornadoes or intruders. Yago's idea is to make a safe out of watertight pvc pipe, and then bury it.

"Purchase the heavier wall, Schedule 40 pvc piping," says Yago. "You can make it any length to match whatever you want to protect."

Yago prefers 2 to 3-ft. lengths and at least a 3 to 6-in. diameter. He also recommends using Oatey brand purple pvc primer cleaners and all-purpose cement. He suggests using new primer cleaners and cement as both tend to deteriorate once opened.

"Use a hacksaw or handsaw to cut the pipe to length with ends straight and square for a good fit," advises Yago. "Remove any burrs or rough edges, then apply the primer to outside surfaces near one end of the pipe and inside the lip of the pipe cap."

The primer softens the surfaces prior to gluing. Once the primer begins to dry, you apply the cement to the exterior surface to be capped.

After inserting documents and other items for safekeeping, he recommends inserting an 8-oz. bag of silica gel to absorb any moisture sealed inside the pipe. Without it, that moisture may condense on the pipe wall and damage documents.

Yago notes that used gel packs can be reused after slowly heating them in an oven at low temperatures.

Once completed, the final step is concealment. How deep such a safe should be buried depends on the frost line, when or how often it will be retrieved, and what is stored inside.

"Filling the hole with sand after digging it will make it easier to access on a regular basis, but also easier for others to notice," advises Yago. "For extreme fire, explosion and flood protection, 36 in. deep is best. It's also below the working depth of most farm and construction machinery." Yago is also author of a book called *Achieving Energy Independence - One Step At A Time*, which provides a very good introduction to off-grid living and battery-based power systems. It is available by calling 804 457-9566.

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Thick-walled PVC pipe is used to make a cheap safe.

"No-Crack" Freezer Containers

If you're tired of freezer containers that don't last very long because they crack, you'll be interested in these heavy duty new freezer containers available from a Pennsylvania company.

They're available in pint and quart sizes. The lids are interchangeable for both sizes.

"Our containers are made from durable virgin plastic. Most other freezer containers are made from recycled plastic, which is softer and

more likely to break," says Verna Shirk, Dutch Freeze, Leola, Penn. "These containers are so tough you can fill them full of water, freeze them solid, and drop them on the floor and they still won't crack. Also, they're wider and not as tall as most other freezer containers so they're not as likely to tip over in your freezer. And they're a lot less expensive than tupperware."

Shirk says she plans to soon offer two other sizes of containers - one that will hold three cups and the other two quarts. "You'll be able to use the same lid on all four containers," she notes.

The pint size container sells for 59 cents plus S&H; the quart size for 69 cents plus S&H. A case of 100 pint-size containers sells for \$53.10 plus S&H. A case of 100 quart-size containers sells for \$62.10 plus S&H.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dutch Freeze, 58 Center Square Rd., Leola, Penn. 17540 (ph 717 656-7778).



Virgin plastic won't crack like recycled plastic in freezer.

Garden Cart Saves His Knees

Richard R. Miller still plants big gardens at the age of 78, and thanks to a 3-wheeled cart he made his knees and back no longer hurt from the work. In fact, a shade umbrella makes gardening a cool, comfortable experience all around.

"Before I made this thing, picking string beans or strawberries was painful because I'd have to get down on my knees," the Upper Sandusky, Ohio man says.

He calls it a self-propelled weeder and crop picker because he propels it himself by pulling it along, using his feet on the ground.

Miller says when the idea for the unit struck him, he went to the barn and got



Cart is made up of old bicycles and a tractor seat.

two old bicycles and cut them up with his torch.

After removing the foot pedals and cranks, he joined the back half of both bikes together by putting a piece of pipe through the holes where the cranks had been.

He installed the seat from a garden tractor between the back wheels and then turned the front wheel and fork assembly from one of the bikes upside-down and welded it to where the crank was on one side. This made the front wheel off-set and allows the cart to straddle garden rows.

For back support, Miller added a curved piece of metal across the back of the seat.

For a finishing touch, he painted it John Deere yellow.

"I don't have much in it - mostly just \$12 worth of paint," he says.

After using it a bit, Miller decided it would sure be nice to not get so hot, working out in the sun, so he got an old tractor shade umbrella and mounted it on the cart. He says it can be easily removed and put back onto the tractor whenever necessary.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Richard R. Miller, 13612 State Highway 294, Upper Sandusky, Ohio 43351 (ph 419 294-3641).

Make Your Own Lawn Sprinkler

One economical way to avoid buying a lawn sprinkler or patio/garden mister is to make your own using an ordinary empty pop bottle and an adapter called the "H2O Boy."

The dual-threaded device simply screws onto a 2-liter bottle. Then you poke holes in the bottle, small or large depending on the area you're going to water. Then hook up the garden hose.

The H2O Boy is suitable for attaching to 95 percent of standard plastic screw-top bottles.

The smaller the bottle, the further the water will spray.

Sells for \$2.99 plus S&H.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, That's Clever, c/o Ed Coleman, Customer Service, 655 Pullman Ave., Rochester, N.Y. 14615 (ph 888 736-3220 or 585 458-7070; fax 585 254-2367; email: ed@thatscleverinc.com; website: www.thatscleverinc.com).

Reader Recipes

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Bittersweet Farm Chicken

1 cut-up chicken
1/2 cup flour
1 tsp salt
1/4 tsp pepper
8 tbsp butter
2 tbsp orange peel
1/4 cup orange liqueur
1/4 cup lemon juice
1 tbsp soy sauce 1/4 cup honey
8 cooked baby carrots

Mix flour, salt and pepper in a plastic bag. Add chicken pieces a few at a time to coat.

Melt 4 tbsp butter in baking pan. Roll chicken in butter and place skin-side down in baking pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 20 minutes. In saucepan, melt butter then add orange peel, lemon juice, liqueur, soy sauce and honey. Separate out 2 tbsp.

Pour orange-honey mixture over chicken and bake for 30 minutes, basting occasionally. Add the 2 tbsp of orange honey mixture to carrots and serve with chicken.

The Chicken Cookbook

Sweet Potato Brownies

2 1/2 cups brown sugar
1 stick margarine, melted
4 eggs, beaten
2 cups mashed sweet potatoes
1 cup rising flour
2 tsp corn starch
2 tsp vanilla
chopped nuts to taste

Combine sugar and margarine. Add all other ingredients except nuts. Blend in bowl. Fold in nuts to taste. Bake at 425 degrees for 30-35 minutes.