

# Underground Trash Burner “Powered” By Clothes Dryer

Donald Dean Sarchet burns his trash in a 30-ft. deep hole in the ground with help from a discarded clothes dryer that blows air deep into the trash for a complete burn.

“I hired a local company to drill a hole 30 ft. deep and 6 ft. in diameter. I had a cap from an older incinerator hole, but I needed a way to get air down to the fire,” says Sarchet.

In his part of Texas, earthen incinerators are common. His local driller charged \$10 per foot for the 6-ft. dia. hole. The 8-ft. dia., 6-in. thick concrete cap is precast with a 3-ft. square hole in the middle. A riser made from a 1/4-in. thick steel plate fits over the hole with a screen on top for a lid.

To get air into the hole, Sarchet suspended 28 ft. of 4-in. dia. stove pipe down into the hole. “As the hole fills with ash, I can pull the pipe up and remove one of the 4-ft. sections,” explains Sarchet. “That ensures the air is

always reaching into the trash being burned.”

He positioned the clothes dryer next to the riser. An elbow on top of the stovepipe extends through the side of the riser where it can be connected to the drier vent.

“After I drop trash into the hole, I dip some newspaper in gasoline, light it, drop it in, and turn on the dryer,” says Sarchet. “With the air coming down the pipe, the trash lights and burns up completely.”

Sarchet says he doesn’t let much trash build up before burning. When he first moved to his property, he found an older incinerator hole packed full of unburned trash. He lit it and used a leaf blower to feed oxygen to the fire.

“After I got it going good, it burned for 3 days,” he recalls. “Every so often the flames would die back, gasses would build up and explode, reignite and burn some more.”

Regular burns and not overloading it



**Donald Dean Sarchet burns his trash in a 30-ft. deep hole in the ground with help from a discarded clothes dryer that blows air deep into the trash for a complete burn. A stovepipe connected to the dryer vent runs down into the hole.**

prevent such explosions, adds Sarchet. “Explosions can cause the dirt sides to break off and fall in,” he says. “Ultimately, that can cause the incinerator to collapse.”

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**A-frame fence stand allows an operator to anchor wires to a post or tree and then drive along dispensing frames and wire as they go.**

## Frames Help Put Up Fencing Fast

A prototype fencing system that uses portable frames could make temporary fencing fast and easy. The prototype is under development at the Prairie Agricultural Machinery Institute (PAMI) in Saskatchewan, Canada.

“Our goal is to help farmers reduce their winter feeding costs by taking advantage of crop residue or crops not harvested,” explains Joy Agnew, project manager, Agriculture Research Services.

Agnew says a manually-operated proof of concept was demonstrated this past year and has gathered lots of interest from farmers. The main features of the PAMI prototype will include a trailer with A-frame stands that are 4 ft. high with a 4-ft. wide base. An arm on each stand extends a wire out for a 3-D effect.

The design allows an operator to anchor wires to a post or tree and then drive along dispensing frames and wire as they go. The goal is to allow one person to set up a half-

mile, 4-strand, 3-D fence in 2 hrs. on frozen ground.

“It needs to be very simple, very robust and cost effective,” says Agnew.

Designers are basing the system on research done in Saskatchewan and Alberta on 3-D fencing. Each A-frame has a set number of holes drilled in it with insulators fitting in each. If the system is adopted commercially, the designers plan to suggest additional holes for varying insulator and wire placement.

“If a manufacturer approached us while still in the testing phase, we might hand over rights. We are testing the system this winter and will decide where to go with it.”

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**A-frame stands are shown here mounted on trailer and ready to be set up. The goal is to help reduce winter feeding costs by taking advantage of crop residue.**



**Kenny Ranta uses a siphon made with electrical conduit, pvc pipe, and flexible hose to empty out silted-up farm ponds fast.**

## Simple Siphon Empties Ponds Fast

Kenny Ranta found a way to empty out silted-up farm ponds without getting his feet wet. He uses a siphon made with electrical conduit, PVC pipe, and flexible hose. Built in 10-ft. sections, the siphon connects easily for set-up and breaks down easy when done.

“I don’t buy anything if I can make it,” says Ranta, explaining why he doesn’t use a gas-powered pump. “I don’t do it to save money, but for the fun of making it.”

He uses 10-ft. lengths of electrical conduit. “I just stick male and female ends together and connect as many as I need with duct tape. As long as the conduit ends are dry when taped, the tape holds the tubes together.”

“I can extend the siphon as far into a pond as needed by just adding more conduit,” explains Ranta.

To create the siphon effect, Ranta fills the pipe with water and then creates a vacuum to pull the water through. There’s a shut-off

valve at the discharge end with a plug at the pond end. The plug consists of a right angle elbow with a small ball stuck in it. The ball has an eyebolt in it that’s attached to a cord.

“As I fill the pipe with water, the pond end sinks to the bottom. When it’s full, I shut the fill valve and open the discharge valve, creating a vacuum. A tug on the cord pulls the plug and the water starts flowing.”

Water flows at a rate of about 20 gal. a min. until the end of the pipe in the pond is exposed.

“The great thing is that when I break it all down, I can tie the sections of tubing into a bundle and carry them out on my shoulder,” says Ranta.

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**Built in 10-ft. sections, the siphon connects easily for setup and breaks down quickly when done. Photo above shows siphon components.**