

# 24 Building an incinerator

## OVERVIEW



In some epidemics, you will need to prevent germs from spreading to other people from certain items such as bed sheets and clothes that have been contaminated by the patient's bodily fluids.

This is especially important in Ebola and Marburg epidemics.

By building an incinerator, you can burn such items and prevent the disease from spreading to others.

Make sure that you only do so if there are no existing alternatives, for example in health facilities.

Be very careful when building and using an incinerator, as it can be dangerous. Keep a means to extinguish the fire (e.g. a bucket of water) close by at all times.

## Tips for building an incinerator

- ➡ To build an incinerator, follow the instructions on the other side of this card.
- ➡ Keep a bucket of water nearby at all times in case you need to put out the fire.
- ➡ If this is your first time building an incinerator, ask a professional or someone who has already built one to help or advise you.
- ➡ Wear protective clothing, in particular gloves, when handling contaminated clothing or other items belonging to the deceased. Place the items carefully in the incinerator and leave them to burn until all the germs are extinguished.
- ➡ Tell people in the community what you are doing so that they know to stay away and keep safe.

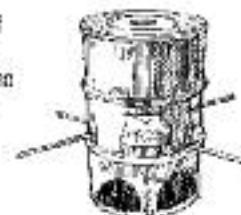
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## STEPS FOR BUILDING AN INCINERATOR



1. Find a 220 litre (55 gallon) drum.

6. Cut 4 holes in the sides of the drum. Thread 2 metal rods through these holes so that they cross inside the drum.



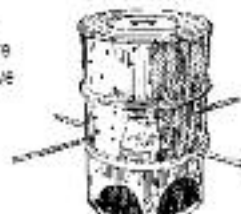
2. Cut open the drum. Remove and save the top cutaway piece.

7. Punch holes in the top cutaway piece to make a platform.



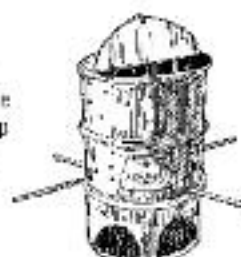
3. Hammer the edges of the drum so that they are no longer sharp.

8. Pierce a series of holes in the side of the drum, above the crossed rods to improve the draw of the fire.



4. Cut 3 half-moon openings just above the top end of the drum.

9. Cut away half of the top. Attach the wire loops to the cutaway half to make a trap door. Attach another loop for a handle to open the trap door.



5. Turn the drum upside down. The bottom of the drum becomes the top.

10. Place the platform (7) inside the drum so that it rests on the crossed rods.

