



A Guide to Ham-Proofing a PawHut Wooden Hamster Cage

OR “THE PENNY METHOD” – all credit to Penny S, Boots’ adopter

The correct minimum cage size which The Veterinary Association for Animal Welfare (TVT) recommends to be a minimum **100cm x 50cm x 50cm** (L x W x H). This is recommended for ALL species of hamsters including dwarf.

One of the most available, budget friendly options is the PawHut Wooden Large Hamster Cage 115L x 57W x 55H(cm).

The obvious problem is that it’s wooden and hams LOVE to chew and tend to urinate in the corners so a cost-effective way of getting a PawHut ready for a new furry tenant is as follows:

Optional Extra

Hamsters LOVE to dig, whether that be in bedding, coir soil or sand. Hamsters should never get wet (a bit like Gremlins!), so in order to keep in tip-top condition, they need access to a sand bath in which to roll around in.

The problem with sand is it’s heavy, so you might want to strengthen your Hut as it only has a drawer, no base. You can do this by using screws to fix a thick piece of marine plywood cut to fit the bottom – B&Q will cut this for free if you ask (two free cuts per piece of wood).

Ham-Proofing Method

- 1) Waterproof the inside of the Hut including the sides of the drawer with either 2-3 coats of Plastikote, or 2 coats of Cuprinol Garden Shades (this is what has been done in this case)
- 2) When the waterproofing is complete, you can chew-proof the exposed parts of the Hut that beg, “chew me”, by using flat metal plates to cover the areas.



For this Hut, we used:

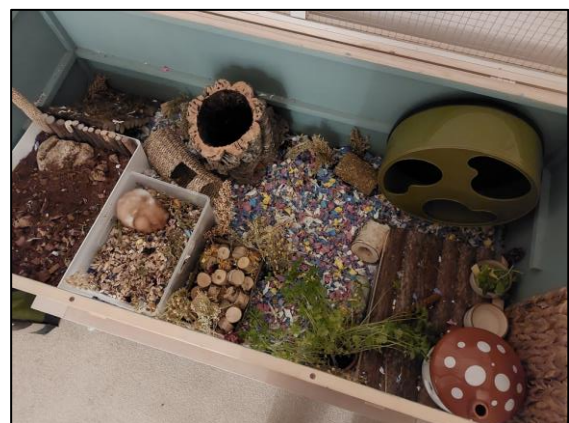
- 7 small plates for each length of the drawer on the inside (14 in total)
- 7 small plates to cover the back of the drawer - there is a small gap between the drawer and the Hut back
- 4 medium plates for the two widths of the of the inside of the drawer (8 in total) - the tops of the sides of the drawer were not plated in this case to enable the drawer to still be usable if required
- 58 short flat head brass screws to fit the plates around 2cms in depth (2 screws per plate)

Note - at the time of purchase, the smaller plates cost 35p each and the medium plates cost 40p each from In-Excess as a guide, but there are many alternatives online.

As the new tenant was not a known chewer, this was proofed enough, but there are some fluff balls who will chew regardless of wonderful, enriched enclosures so you may need to extend the plates further.

You are now ready to 'hamscape' your new Hut ready for your hamster

- Use a size appropriate wheel – 9inch for Dwarf & Roborovski / 12inch for Syrians – never use a spinner as these can damage delicate spines
- Deep bedding for burrowing such as Carefresh, teabag bedding, Megazorb, ink free paper bedding – do not use sawdust as this can cause respiratory issues
- Sand bath – you can use normal play sand, but rinse and bake it in the oven, or use hamster safe sand
- Hides (ceramic or Formaldehyde free wood)– everyone loves a cosy home!
- Dig boxes
- Hamster safe boredom breakers and sprays (dried plants)



Examples of some good suppliers are:

Hopes Healthy Treats, Etsy sellers such as HappyHenryHomes, Chubby Cheeks,

Niteangel (can be found on Amazon)

Credit https://www.instagram.com/bright_horizon_hamster_rescue/
Penny Saunders