

Make a dog feeder

You need to be handy with a jigsaw and a drill (or know someone who is) for this craft project. Take your time and you'll be pleased with the results!

Turning a used crate into a chic feeding station is easier than you might think. **Rachael D'Cruze** shows you how...

Step 1

If you've bought a genuine wine crate, you'll need to remove the wood and staples around the rim. Remove any splinters of wood with pliers and then either remove any staples with pliers, or carefully tap them down into the wood so they are flush with the rim.

You will need

- A wooden crate – the more interesting the better. The one you see here cost £9.99 (with free postage) and is a genuine wine crate from France. You can buy one from the SilverSprint Shop on eBay.
- A piece of wood or tongue and groove (T&G) the same style as your crate and the same size as its base.
- Two stainless steel dog bowls – the type that have a lip around the rim (from any good pet shop).
- Protective felt floor pads (from any hardware store).
- Jigsaw.
- Drill with a large wood-drill bit.
- Panel pins.
- Sandpaper.
- Pencil and paper.
- Scissors.
- Tape measure or ruler.
- Pliers.

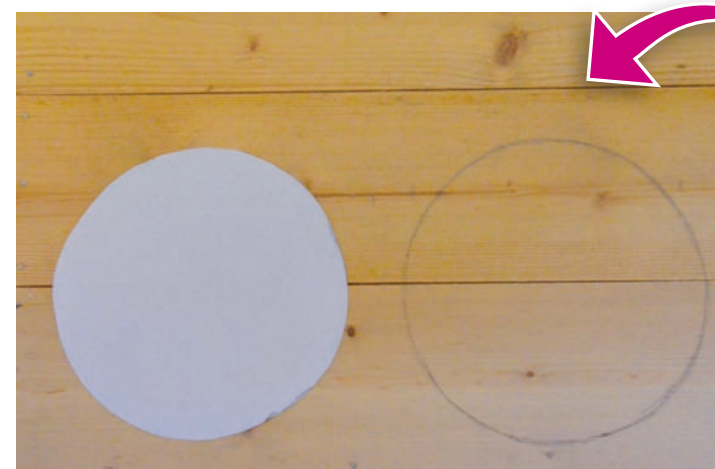


Step 2

Next, make a top for your crate. Measure the bottom and cut a piece of wood to exactly the same measurements. You can either use one large piece of wood, or T&G (which comes in lengths) as we've done. Once cut, fix it in place using panel pins around the circumference of the top – hammer in one pin every 30cm for strength.

Step 3

Sand the edges and corners of your crate. This is very important, as it prevents your dog from getting splinters. Use coarse sandpaper first and finish with fine-grade sandpaper until all edges are smooth.



Step 4

Measure the inside diameter of your bowls and make paper templates. Place the templates symmetrically on your crate, at a distance from the front lip that will be comfortable for your dog, depending on his size. When you're happy, draw round the templates on the top of your crate with a pencil as shown.

Step 5

Using a drill, with a large wood-drill bit attached, make a hole in the inside edge of each of the circles (see above). Use these holes as a starting place to cut the circles out using a jigsaw. Your bowls will sit in these holes.

Step 6

To avoid the feeder scratching your floor and moving around, stick protective felt feet to each underside corner. You can buy these from your local hardware store or online (ours came from www.amazon.co.uk). Then place your bowls into the holes, fill with food and water and see what your dog thinks! ●

Did you know?

Elevated feeders are thought to aid better digestion, put less stress on the pasterns and, as less leaning is involved, stress on the hips and shoulder area is reduced too.

About the author

Rachael D'Cruze is a freelance journalist, craft enthusiast and dog-lover who lives in Somerset with her fiancé, Tom, and three-year-old rescue Staffordshire Bull Terrier, Poppy.