

How to Tuesdays



Goin' Green Recycled Fire Place Starters

Starting a wood fire is not always the easiest endeavor. My little How-to Tuesday project this week recycles a lot of stuff that would normally go in to the trash and makes a great fire starter. Its maybe just a little on the messy side but don't let that stop you. Once you do a couple it becomes really easy. If you can run a car on discarded grease, why not use it to start a fire place.

First fold a paper towel in quarters. Dip the paper towel in the oil or use it to wipe out the frying pan.



Then roll the towel into a roll and fold it in half.



Paper towel tubes or toilet paper tubes cut into short pieces work great. Push your paper towel into the tube. I make 2 out of a TP tube and 4 from a paper towel tube.



Place them into a zip top plastic bag because they will drip a little. In my case I also filter and refrigerate the oil from the deep fryer. This usually leaves a half cup or so of dirty oil plus what is in the bottom of the pan. That is all there is to it. Place one under the kindling in your fireplace and light.

They light easily put out a good steady flame for several minutes. Usually one is more than enough to get the fire going.

If you keep the supplies handy in the kitchen you can quickly make one or two each time you fry something for dinner. Why wash that good oil down the drain or pour it into the trash. All vegetable oils, bacon drippings and lard are flammable. The worst case is the fire may smell like fried chicken for a minute or two.

Just remember these are flammable and need to be stored a safe distance from the fire. Plus, they are eatable! Your dog, cat or mouse will love them. So be sure to store not only in a baggie but also in a secure place away from the heat and the dog. Grease can go rancid over time; it is still flammable but may not smell that great. Use the older ones first, they keep for several weeks; do not store them over the summer.