

DIY Washer Toss Game Plans



Free Washer Toss Game Plans

Our version of the game is based on a game that was given to us by our friends and neighbors a few years ago (thanks again Tom and Penny!). It's a simple design and is easy to put together. It is 16" square with 5.5" tall sides. The cup in the center is a 5.5" tall piece of 4" PVC.

We chose to stick with the 1" X 6" sides, instead of 2" x 4" sides, because the washers do bounce out from time to time. You can still add carpet to the bottom to help, but we haven't done this with our games.

Tools Needed To Make A Washer Toss Game

To put one of these washer pitching games together only requires a few basic carpentry tools. You'll find most of them in our basic carpentry tools for homeowners article. In an hour or two you can turn some scrap wood laying around the shop into a fun game for the entire family. Let's see what you'll need to get started.

Circular saw

Jigsaw

Carpenters square and/or straight edge

Hand Drill and drill bits

Screwdriver

Tape measure (flexible wrap around tape measure (pipe marker), optional)

Sand paper

Pencil or marker

Materials Needed To Make A Washer Toss Game

Below is the material list for one game set. Keep in mind a lot of this material may be items you already have tucked away in the corner of your workshop.

2 - 16" x 16" pieces of plywood

2 - 1" x 6" x 8' boards (4 @ 14.5 = 58, 4 @ 16 = 64)

2 - 3-7/8" wooden circles (used to attach the PVC)

24 - 1.5" drywall screws (sides)

32 - 3/4" drywall screws (attach the bottom, the wooden circles, and the PVC)

2 - 5.5" length of 4" PVC

8 - 3/4" washers

Paint - two different bright colors for the washers

1 - 14.5" x 14.5" piece of carpet (optional)

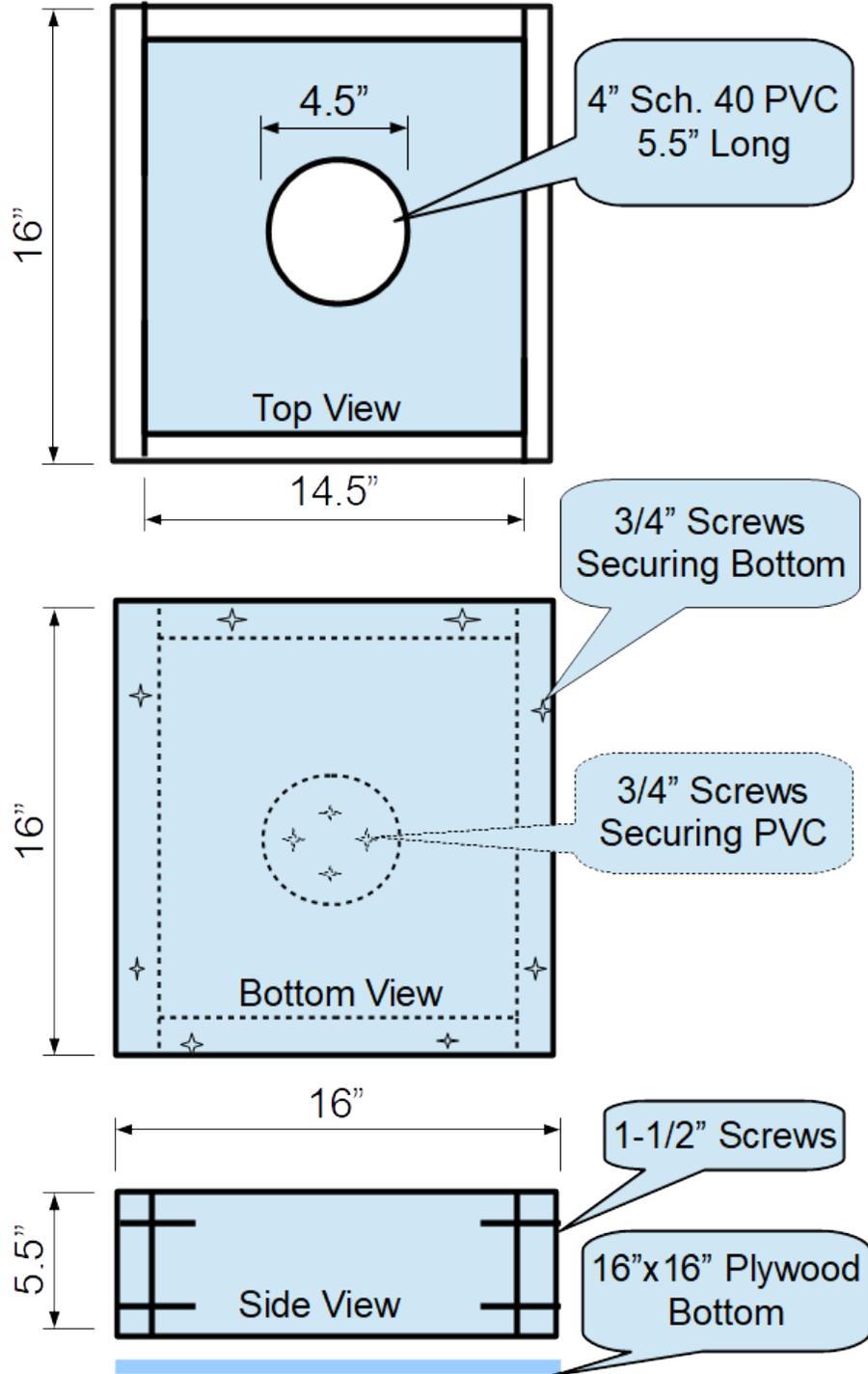
Washer Games Building Instructions

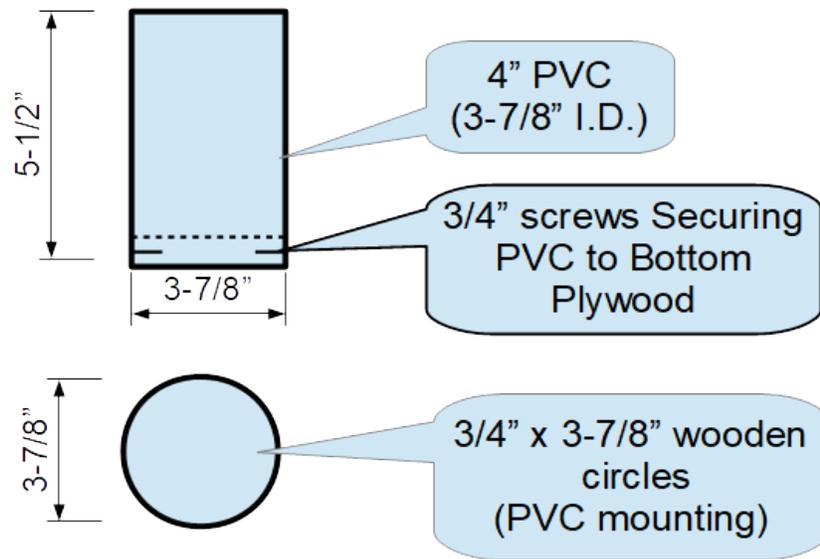
Now that you have your tools and materials gathered it's time to get started building your game. They are easy to make and it should take you under a couple of hours to put together.

Cutting The Boards And PVC

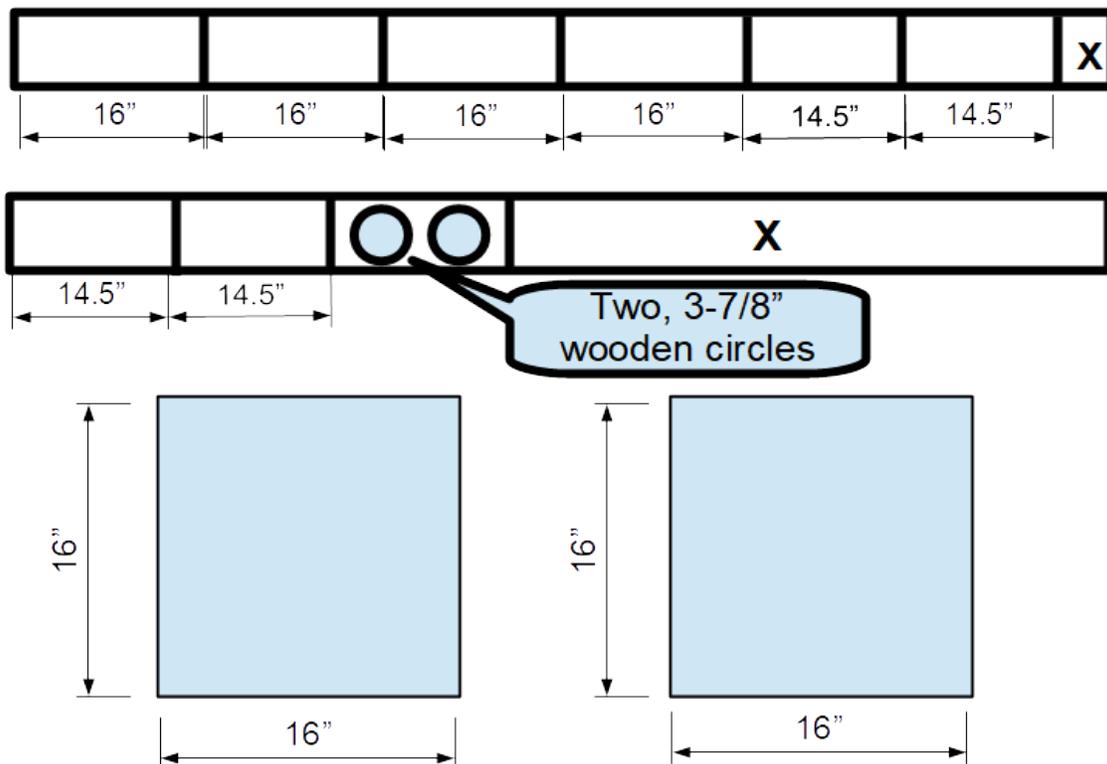
To get started you'll need to cut the plywood bottoms and the side boards. This can be done with a circular saw or table saw. The below diagram shows how to cut the side boards to help cut down on waste.

Washer Toss Game Box





How To Cut 1"x6"x8' Boards



To cut the PVC you have a couple of options. The easiest would be with a band saw. That would give you a nice straight cut, but if you're like me, there's a chance you don't have one. You can cut them by hand, but it's difficult to cut it square. It's best to mark a line around the circumference of the PVC to keep the cut fairly straight.

I like using a "flexible wrap around tape measure (pipe marker)" to mark a straight line on round material. Wrapping the tape measure around the material and aligning the overlapping edges of the tape measure will create a straight line parallel to the end of the PVC. Slide the tape measure to 5.5" from the end of the PVC and make a mark around the full circumference. That will give you a good mark to follow when cutting by hand.



Starting PVC Pipe Cut

I like using a jigsaw to make this cut. If you hold the saw at an angle and slowly and carefully tilt the blade down, you can actually cut through the wall of the PVC pipe, before the end of the jigsaw blade starts hitting. As soon as the blade breaks through the PVC wall, stop the saw and insert the blade in the opening. Then begin cutting normally following your line, while rotating the pipe. This will give you a fairly straight cut.

No matter how you cut it, the edges of cut PVC can be sharp! You'll want to wear a pair of gloves and carefully smooth all the edges of the PVC with sandpaper.

To cut the wood circles, set one of the PVC pieces on the 1" x 6" board and trace the inside diameter of the PVC. This gives you a nice mark to cut the circle using a jigsaw.

Assembling The Washer Game



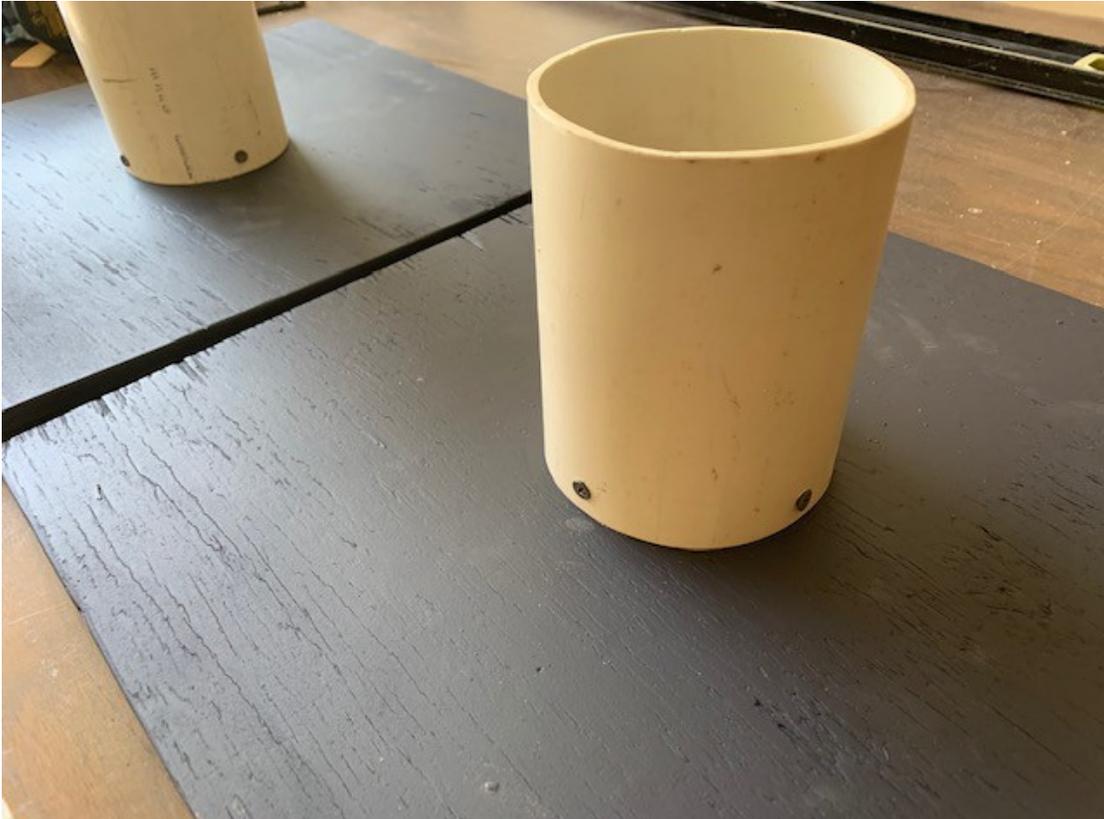
Cut Washer Game Materials

With all the material cut you can begin assembly. If you plan on painting your game set, I recommend painting the wood pieces before assembly. I like leaving the PVC unpainted, so it's a little easier to do before assembling the boxes. You may end up having to do a little touch up around the screws, but painting them helps seal the wood in case it gets left out in the rain.

Side Boards

Start by screwing the side boards together to create the 16" x 16" box. I would recommend drilling clearance and pilot holes and countersinking the screw heads for a nice finish. If you need more information on these items check out our article on drilling holes for more information. This is important to help prevent splitting the boards.

Attach Wooden Circles And PVC



Next you'll want to attach the wooden circles to the center of the 16"x16" bottom plywood boards. Start by setting one of the circles on your work surface and then place one of the 16"x16" bottoms on top of it. Slide a tape measure under the edge of the board until it touches the wooden circle. You will do this on all four sides and adjust the placement of the 16" square board until it is even on all for sides. On these plans that should be approximately 6 inches $((16" - 4")/2)$.

Using 3/4" screws, screw downward through the 16" board to secure the wooden circle. Again, I usually use clearance and pilot holes to make sure you get a good tight attachment and I recommend countersinking the screw heads.

Once the wooden circles are attached to the base, now you can install the PVC onto the circles. I recommend using four screws to secure the PVC to the circles. You will want to pre-drill the holes for the screws in the PVC before putting it onto the circle. Then place them onto the wooden circles and install the screws with a long screwdriver. That completes the base section.

Completing Washer Toss Box

With the base completed, it's time to attach it to the box section. Simply flip the box section upside down and set the base section on it with the PVC down inside the box. Attach the base to the sides using 3/4" screws. Again I recommend drilling pilot holes to prevent cracking and splitting. That completes the assembly of the washer toss game boxes.



Preparing The Washers

The only thing left to do is to get the washers to go. As shown above we use four washers for each team, for a total of eight washers. You have to be able to easily distinguish the washers from one another.

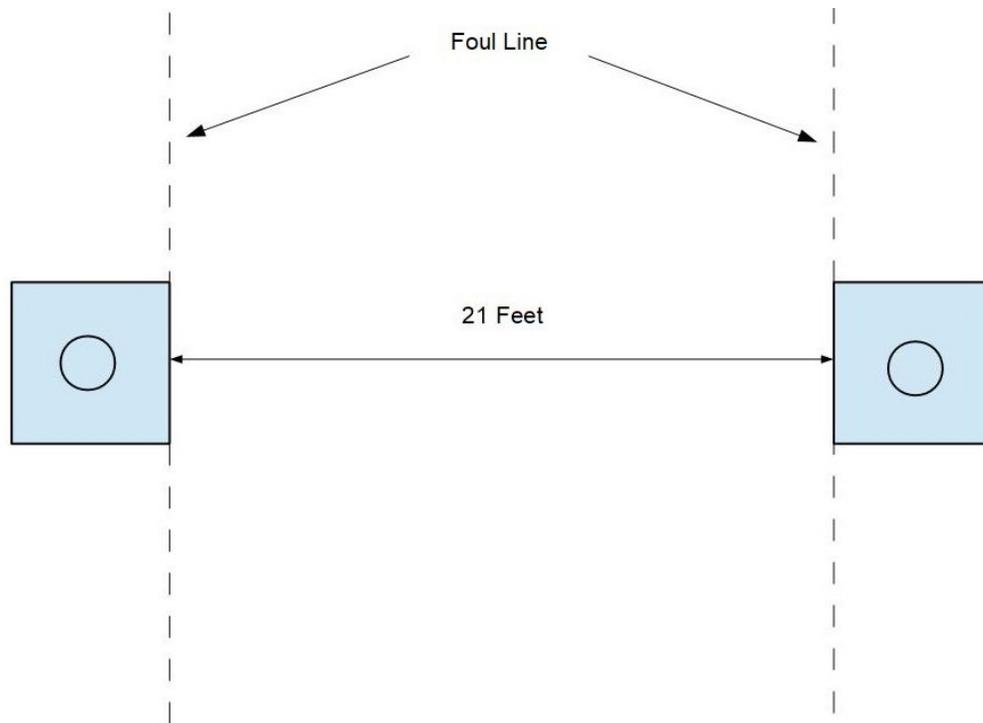
One of the best ways to do this is to paint them. You'll want to use two different, brightly colored paints for this, so they can be easily found in the surrounding grass or dirt where the game is played. You'll want to roughen them up with a little sandpaper and then prime and paint them. Don't be surprised if you have to repaint them occasionally. The washers take a beating hitting themselves, the box, and surrounding area.

Another option I've seen is to stamp markings into the washers. If you have access to letter/number stamps for metal, you can mark them instead, or along with colors. For example, marking both sides of four washers with several "X"s and the other four with "O"s you can easily identify them as well. The best part is these marks will last much longer than the paint. If you play frequently, this could be a little easier. Either way that's all you need to get started.

How To Play Washer Toss

We've talked about how there are several different versions of the game itself, so I am certain there

are several different ways the game is played and scored. With that said, I will share the house rules that we, along with our family and friends, have settled on for play. The key here is to settle on your rules and scoring before starting.



We place the boxes approximately 21 feet apart (7 paces). Each team has a player at each end of the play area.

To determine which team starts each team has one player toss a washer and the team with the closest washer to the box goes first. If you want to flip a coin or play Rock, Paper, Scissor, you can do that too if you like.

Once you have determined who goes first, the players at one end alternate throwing washers, one at a time, until they've thrown all your washers. You must throw from behind the "foul line".

Only one team scores per end (scoring is covered below). We feel there is an advantage of being able to see what you have to beat, so we play that the team scoring points throws last on the next throw.

How To Score Washer Toss

When it comes to scoring in washers, there is as many variations to scoring as there is to how the game is played and the boards themselves. The "house rules" we use are basically how we learned to play the game and how we play with our friends and family. The beauty of it is you can determine your own house rules and play the game how you like. I will mention a couple other popular playing options below that you may want to incorporate into your scoring and rules.

In our version of the games we can score either 1 point, 2 points, or 3 points. If you land a washer

within 6" of the box, on the outside, you score 1 point. A washer inside the box, but not in the center PVC cup, you receive 2 points. If your washer lands in the PVC cup you score 3 points. This is a little different than many who award 1 point for inside the box and 3 points for landing inside the PVC. Games like washer toss and cornhole have a "cancellation" scoring method. Simply put, only one team scores points per end. Using the point scoring above, if the first team scores 4 points and the second team scores 6 points, then team two scores a total of 2 points for that end. The points from each end adds up until one team reaches the winning score.

We play to a winning score of 21 points. However, we add a twist that not all folks do. We play that you have to hit 21 exactly! This makes the game a little trickier. That's why we play with the three point system mentioned above. It offers a little more flexibility when trying to hit that elusive 21. If you go over 21, your team "busts", your score goes back to 15, and you continue playing from there. This normally makes each game last a little longer and makes for good close matches.

If you have multiple teams playing and want to keep games a little shorter, you have a couple options. You can eliminate the "bust" rule, so the first team to reach, or exceed, 21 wins. You can also play to a lower score. It's not uncommon to play games that go to 11, 15 or 17 total points. You can make these kinds of adjustments to fit your needs.

Feel free to share these plans with your family and friends and visit us at "ourrecipesforsuccess.com" for more DIY home projects. Now, get outside and enjoy a summer full of washer toss!