Outdoor Cooking

How shall I Cook It?

Buddy Burner & Vagabond Stove Cardboard Oven Firelighters Hay Box Juice Carton Reflector Oven General Cooking Hints

What shall I Cook?

Bread Meals Banana Boats in foil in a Cardboard Oven or on embers Dampers or Twists on an open fire or barbecue Foil Dinner in the embers **Charcoal Chicken Stuffed Charcoal in the hot embers** Little Cakes or Scones in a cardboard oven Hot Dogs in a Juice Carton - See How to Cook in a Juice Carton Magic Egg on an open fire or barbecue, or in a cardboard oven - See Magic Orange Magic Orange on an open fire or barbecue, or in a cardboard oven Little Pancakes over a buddy burner Pop Corn over buddy burners Pineapple Upside-Down Cake over a buddy burner **Individual Pizzas in a Cardboard Oven** Scrambled Eggs in baggies Sponge Pudding in a roasting bag, over a buddy burner Stew in a hay box Turkey in a Can

The intention of this booklet is to collect different methods of "Outdoor Cooking" together into one place, so that Guides and Guiders - in fact all members of WAGGGS - can print one small document and find in it all they need to know.

Note that the recipes given are not intended to be exhaustive, they are just suggestions that you may not have thought of, and this resource should give you some ideas of what may be cooked successfully in a variety of home-made cookers.

Don't forget to wash your hands before handling food.

Buddy Burner & Vagabond Stove

Purpose

A buddy burner is a small portable stove that may used for cooking for one or two people.

Description

There are many different types of buddy burner. All use a large tin with air holes in it as either the surface on which food is cooked, or as the stand on which a small cooking pot is placed, this is called a vagabond stove.

The source of heat may be either a night light (tea lite) or a larger, home-made candle-based heat source. This description is for the latter.

Materials

Two empty food cans each with one end removed. The larger should fit over the smaller, leaving a gap of between 2.5cm and 5cm (1 to 2 inches).

The smaller one (buddy burner) might be a small tuna tin, or a cat-food tin.

The larger one (vagabond stove) might be a catering tin of vegetables, or a dried baby milk tin.

Candle wax

Corrugated cardboard

A suitable wick, either string or a proper candle wick

Tools

A heat source (small cooker) to heat the candle wax

An old pan in which to heat the wax

Scissors

Oven gloves

A can opener (see picture below) the best sort is one that does not remove the whole end of the can

Tin snips

A pair of pliers

Old-fashioned Party-7 opener (makes triangular holes in the top of large beer cans)

Method

Cut the corrugated cardboard so that the height is such that it just fits inside the smaller can, and the length is such that it goes round about three times inside the can. It doesn't have to be one length.

Cut the wick so that it is slightly more than double the height of this can.

Heat the wax until it is just melted.

Put the cardboard in the can.

Double the wick, and put it in the can with its two ends poking out somewhere near the centre.

Carefully pour the hot melted wax into the can until it is almost full and the cardboard is almost covered; make sure the two wick ends are poking out.

Put somewhere safe for the wax to cool.

Now take the larger can (vagabond stove) and make airholes so that there is an oxygen supply to keep the "candle" burning well.

Using the beer-can opener, make lots of triangular holes around the curved sides of the can at the closed end.

Now you need to make either one large hole or several small holes at the open end of this can. If you have tin snips, you can cut a suitable rectangular hole in one side of the can. The hole should be about one sixth of the circumference and about one quarter the height of the can. Don't forget you can make a hole that is too small bigger, but you can't make a hole that

is too large smaller. If you make the hole slightly smaller than you require it to be when finished, and then put a small diagonal slit about 0.5cm (0.2 inch) long at each of the inside corners, you can bend the tin back to make a rounded edge. Do be careful of sharp edges.

Notes

Note that the volume of the wax will decrease as it cools, so it is necessary to fill the can quite full. Sometimes the burner will not be tall enough for the vagabond stove, so you will need to put it on an empty tin, as in the photograph below.

You may be able to add some extra wax after each use, to refill the buddy burner, but make sure there is still some cardboard showing. If you use a tall (14oz / 400g) tin for the buddy burner, you will not be able to burn it right down, sensibly.

Use

Find somewhere safe to place the buddy burner. Light the "candle" - the cardboard will form part of the wick, giving a fiercer fire.

Place the vagabond stove upside-down centrally over the "candle" tin.

Either cook directly on the top of the can, or use a small pot. Some people like to put a little water on top of the large can to give good thermal contact between it and the cooking pot.

To put the buddy burner out, cover the complete top with an empty tin; possibly the vagabond stove, but don't forget it will be **hot**.

The inside of the vagbond stove will get very sooty inside.

Try to use a lightweight pan that doesn't take long for the pan to heat.



Cardboard Oven

Purpose

To cook food that requires an oven

Description

A large, strong cardboard box, covered in aluminium foil, with an oven shelf

Materials

A large strong cardboard box
An oven shelf that either just fits completely within the cardboard box, or fits widthwise, but is too long lengthwise
Aluminium Foil & magic tape
Four long metal tent pegs
A disposable barbecue and two bricks

Tools

Strong scissors

Notes

There are many different methods of making a cardboard oven. Here I consider one main method, with slightly different methods of supporting the oven shelf.

Furthermore, there are various different ways of providing a heat source for this oven. The one suggested here is a disposable barbecue.

Method

There are two alternatives here, you may cut the four flaps from one end of the cardboard box. Weave these together to be a similar size to the hole from which they came. Cover completely with aluminium foil. Put aside for now; this will form the lid of the oven. Alternatively, leave the flaps on and cover with foil so that you can fold them over to close the oven "door".

Fold the other four end flaps inwards. Completely cover the box with aluminium foil, wound round in several separate lengths through the hole. The magic tape may be used to secure the aluminium foil on the outside of the box. As well as forming a heat-reflecting surface, this is so that the cardboard is protected from the heat of the oven.

The next step depends on the size of the oven shelf relative to the box. Consider the box with the cut-off flaps at the top, so that the oven has sides, but neither top nor bottom. The shelf need to be supported about halfway up the height of the box.

If the oven shelf is longer than the box, make two slots, one in each end, so that the shelf may be slotted through the two ends.

If the oven shelf is not longer than the box, then it must be supported at both ends. This may be done by using the four tent pegs. Each tent peg needs to be pushed through two adjacent sides to form a triangle in the corner, and have as much of the tent peg as practical inside the box. The distance from each corner to each hole should be about the same, and not greater then 2/3 length of the tent peg. The shelf should now rest on these four supports

If the cardbox box is really strong, then it may be possible to rest the oven shelf on the four turned-in flaps. This is shown in the photograph.

Use

Set the disposable barbecue up on a suitable surface which will not be damaged by the heat (or doesn't matter that it gets damaged by the heat). Put one brick at either end (or side) of the barbecue, and stand the bottom of the oven on these bricks. When the food to be cooked has been put on the oven shelf, put the lid on to keep the heat within the oven.



Cardboard Oven, without the aluminium foil to show how it is constructed. In this case the oven tray fits snuggly into the box, using the turned up bottom flaps to secure it in position.



Four Firelighters

Firelighter

Purpose

A firelighter that will last long enough to ensure the fire lights and stays alight.

Description

A wax firelighter in an eggbox section.

Materials

A cardboard eggbox Some candle wax Some strips of newspaper Some string as a wick

Tools

A heat source (small cooker) to heat the candle wax An old pan in which to heat the wax Scissors

Method

Heat the wax in the pan

Cut the six bottom sections out of the egg box

Cut a few strips of newspaper some 5cm wide (2") by 15cm (6") long. Push the middle into the bottom of the egg-box section.

Find somewhere safe to place the egg-box section, because the hot wax will seep through the cardboard and may damage the surface on which it rests.

Slowly, fill the egg-box section with the molten wax, and dangle a length (about 5cm, 2")of string wick into it. Allow to cool.

Notes

When lit, the newspaper and then the cardboard will join the wick to form a hot heat source, which will last some time.

Use

Use one or two firelighters to light either a wood fire, or barbecue charcoal

Hay-Box

Purpose

This is used to cook a stew or similar. It is rather like a slow cooker. The stew is prepared in the usual manner, and instead of letting it cook slowly on a cooker or fire, when it is nicely hot, it is placed inside the hay-box for several hours.

A hay-box may be used to cook the stew either during the night, ready for the next day's midday meal, or it may be used throughout the day when the girls are either away from the camp or otherwise busy.

It is a very good method of cooking without using resources.

Description

A hay box, as its name suggests, is a box containing hay or straw, surrounding the cooking pot of stew (or similar), which uses insulation techniques to cook food slowly. Thus it may be compared to a slow cooker.

Materials

A cooking pot.

A large strong box that is at least 15cm (6 inches) deeper and wider, than the cooking pot that will be used. This may be a wooden tea chest, or a large strong cardboard box. Lots of straw or similar insulation.

Some aluminium foil.

Two carrier bags.

Method

It isn't absolutely necessary to line the box with aluminium foil, but it does help. The foil round the sides of the box will probably get pushed down unless you are very careful. Place about 8cm (3 inches) straw on the bottom of the box (more is there is extra space). Place the empty cooking pot on top, in the middle. Fill around the cooking pot with more straw. Pack the straw very tightly.

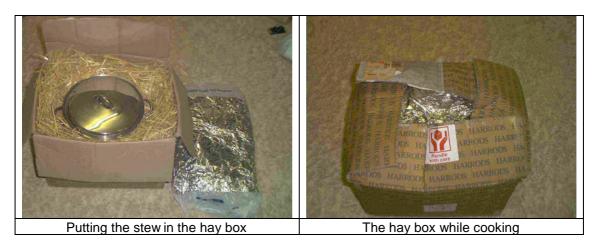
Now make a "cushion" to place on the top, by filling one carrier bag with straw, and placing the other carrier bag over the open end. Wrap this cushion in aluminium foil.

Prepare the food in the pot, make sure it is very hot. Slide the pot into the hay-box, and place the cushion on top. If using a cardboard box the four flaps may be folded over to keep the warmth in.

Leave overnight, or throughout the day. Shortly before serving, take the cooking pot out of the hay box, and reheat, making sure that the contents are heated properly throughout.

Notes

The hay-box may be kept from year-to-year. However, you will need to have some extra straw, as this tends to decrease in volume with age.



Juice Carton for Hot Dogs

Purpose

To cook food that does not require much cooking, with not much extra to carry, and very little waste remaining at the end.

Description

This is a juice or milk carton - preferably 2 litre, filled with newspaper, and lit.

Materials

A two litre juice or milk carton Newspaper Aluminium foil

Method

The food, for example two hot dogs, are wrapped in aluminium foil.

Remove any plastic opener from the carton. Stuff some scrunched-up newspaper into the bottom of the carton. Now put the wrapped food into the carton, and put more scrunched-up newspaper around it. Do not stuff too much paper in the carton, as this will stop it from burning properly.

Use

Just light the newspaper and wait for the newspaper and carton to have burnt away. The hot dog will be just right.

Reflector Oven

Purpose

Watching food cook

Description

A reflecting oven made out of aluminium foil.

Materials

Aluminium Foil
A few large stones or a small log.

Tools

Scissors (optional)

Method

Take a piece of aluminium foil about 120cm (4 foot) long. Fold it in half with the dull sides together. Fold in half again, but open out this second fold so that there is about 90° between the two pieces. Cut (or tear) two pieces of foil to fit into the open sides of the large piece. fasten them, shiny side in, by folding the edges together. It will actually be more stable if you fold the end foils double.

Put the oven down, close to and facing an open fire. Rest the back on some large stones or a small log so that the oven tilts forward slightly.

Put food in the oven, and watch it cook. when the top looks done, turn it over.

Notes

The fire should be red hot with flames.

Use

Suitable things to cook are: scones or cakes
Cheese on toast
pizza (on a bread roll)
pig in a blanket (frankfurter wrapped in puff pastry)
biscuits
apple and ginger bread (slices of apple in bottom, gingerbread mix on the top



Reflector oven, showing the back raised.

General Cooking Hints

Wood-fire or Buddy Soot

If you support your cooking pot directly over a buddy burner, or cook over a wood fire, the outside of the pot will become coated with soot. "Fairy Ajax" will make the pot much easier to clean.

"Fairy Ajax"

To make cooking pots easier to clean after cooking on a wood fire or buddy burner, **first** coat the **outside** of the pot with the following magical mixture.

Mix approximately equal quantities of washing-up liquid with Ajax (or Vim or similar), I can only find Ajax in the shops now, so I bought about four cartons. Then paint the outside of the dixie or other cooking pot with this mixture. At the end of the camp, you just need a plastic scourer to clean this, you even have the cleaning stuff ready on the pot.

Fryingpans

Melanie Thompson on the GuidingUK email list says: Have you tried opening a metal clothes hanger into a square and making a frying pan using aluminium foil wrapped around edges then breaking an egg into it. This worked for cooking over the buddy burners but not with the candles in cans.

Another method for frying pans is to use an aluminium foil pie base rather than plain aluminium foil.

Bread Meals

Acknowledgements Becky Winterson on the GuidingUK email list

Intended Result A meal with no cooking utensils to be washed up

Ingredients A loaf, fillings as required

Tools Aluminium Foil, a knife

Cooking Techniques In the embers

Method

Becky said that these were always their favourite for the outdoor cooking competition, as they are very easy and delicious.

Slice the end off a loaf, and hollow out the inside. Mix the crumbs are then mixed with the other ingredients, then stuff everything back into the loaf. Brush the outside of the loaf with butter, wrap it in foil and put it in the embers.

The fillings may be savory or sweet, some examples are:

Cheese, sweetcorn and bacon

Mince, tomatoes and finely chopped vegetables – make sure this is thoroughly cooked Dried fruit and brown sugar and dried fruit

Banana Boats

Intended Result A banana with chocolate and/or marshmallows melted in it.

Ingredients One banana each - or other soft fruit

Chocolate buttons and/or small marshmallows

Tools Aluminium foil

A knife

Cooking **Techniques** If you are using a cardboard oven for something else, then the Banana Boats may be cooked in that, otherwise cook in any suitable embers.

Notes This can be adapted for other soft fruits such as peaches.

If cooking in an oven, the cooking time is less critical than if cooking

over embers.

Method

Make a cut along the length of the banana, and scoop out just a tiny amount of the fruit and eat it. If using a peach, cut it in half and remove the stone.

Fill the space with chocolate buttons and/or small marshmallows.

Wrap in aluminium foil. Cook for about 10 to 20 minutes.

Dampers or Twists

Intended Result These may be delicious, or totally burnt nasties

Ingredients Flour, sugar, water, jam

Tools A green twig - Wimps may use wooden chopsticks

A mixing bowl and spoon

Cooking **Techniques** Cook in the embers for five to ten minutes

Notes These usually break and are much messier than you would believe

possible.

Method

Mix about 4 oz flour and 2 oz sugar with a little water to form a dough. Wind the dough around the green twig. Cook over the embers.

Take off the twig and fill with jam, or dip the damper in jam.

Foil Dinner

Intended Result This is used to cook a complete dinner in a separate container, so that

different tastes may be catered for.

Ingredients Minced Meat of some sort, this may be vegetarian mince

Potato

Other vegetables as in season Gravy granules & water

Seasoning: Brown sauce, herbs as required

Tools Method 1:

Aluminium Foil Newspaper Water

A felt-tip pen

Method 2:

Aluminium Foil container and lid (as used by Indian Take-aways)

A felt-tip pen

Cooking Techniques Cook in embers of either a wood fire or a disposable barbecue

Notes The potatoes and other vegetables need to be cut thinly to decrease

cooking time.

If vegetarian mince is used it is less worrying about whether the meat

is fully cooked.

Method

Cut the potato and other vegetables used into small slices, well no, not the peas.

Method 1:

Put all the ingredients on the aluminium foil, with herbs and Brown sauce if required, and/or gravy granules semi-dissolved in cold water.

Wrap the foil in a similar manner to a groundsheet on a bedding roll, by rolling along the length, and then rolling in the ends.

Wrap in several sheets of damp newspaper, then wrap in a slightly larger piece of foil in the same manner as before.

Try to write your name on the parcel.

Cook in the embers for up to half-an-hour.

Method 2:

Put all the ingredients in the aluminium foil dish, with herbs and Brown sauce if required, and/or gravy granules semi-dissolved in cold water.

Put the lid on, and write your name on it.

Cook in the embers for up to half-an-hour.

Charcoal Chicken Stuffed Charcoal

Acknowledgements Many thanks to Lucy Faulds for this recipe

Intended Result A wonderful mock-roast chicken in less time than expected.

Ingredients A whole large chicken

Charcoal briquettes, minimum six or seven per chicken

Aluminium Foil

Tools Tongs and oven gloves

Cooking Cooking and preparation time about two hours. Cook in the hot

Techniques embers of a wood/charcoal fire.

Notes A large chicken is better for this.

Method

First make a fire (which may be of wood as well as charcoal briquettes, and heat the six or seven briquettes for each chicken.

Wash the chicken as usual. Carefully take some six or seven hot briquettes and wrap in aluminium foil - using the tongs and oven gloves. Stuff inside the chicken. Wrap the chicken in foil and place in the fire. Cook for about an hour.

Little Cakes or Scones

Intended Result Little cakes or scones, cooked quickly.

Ingredients A packet mix and whatever is requested on the packet.

Tools A bowl and a spoon

A baking tray

Cooking Techniques

Cardboard Oven or Reflector Oven

Notes This recipe may be adapted for any type of cake. It isn't necessary to

use a mix, the raw ingredients from any recipe would be fine.

Method

Make up the mix as instructed on the packet.

Drop small spoonfuls onto the baking tray. Put the tray in the oven - which has been preheated by the disposable barbecue. Put the lid on the oven.

Cook for approximately the length of time suggested in the recipe.

Or drop small spoonfuls onto aluminium foil, and carefully put into the reflector oven, near a heat source.

Magic Orange (or Egg)

orange.

Ingredients An orange for each cake

A packet of chocolate flavoured cake mix

Water (probably) to add to the sponge cake mixture

Tools A bowl in which to make the sponge mix

A knife to cut the top off the orange

A small spoon, serrated would be ideal, to scoop the fruit out of the

orange

A spoon, and optionally a fork or small whisk to mix the cake mixture

Aluminium Foil

Cooking This may be cooked either in a cardboard oven, or in the embers of a wood fire or barbecue

Notes This may be adapted to cook an egg. Instead of filling the orange with

cake mix, just break an egg into the hollowed-out orange. This will also

take about 15 minutes to cook.

Method

Cut the top off the orange, scoop the fruit out of the orange and eat it. Make up the mix according to the instructions on the packet. Spoon the cake mix into the orange(s), and replace the top. Wrap the orange in foil, and cook for about 15 minutes. You will probably need a spoon to eat the cake.

Little Pancakes

Intended Result Pancakes which may be served with various fillings

Ingredients 125-200g (4-7oz) Flour

Sugar (optional)

1 Egg

About half a pint (250ml) Milk or milk and water mixed

Oil or fat to grease the surface of the tin

Various fillings: sugar, orange, lemon, syrup, jam, honey

Tools A mixing bowl and spoon

A clean tin, open at one end, with air vents, which fits over the buddy

burner

Cooking Techniques In the tin which fits over the buddy burner or similar cooker.

Method

Mix the flour, egg, (sugar if used), and milk and beat to a smooth consistency. Make sure the tin which is inverted over the top of the buddy burner is clean. Heat some oil or fat on the surface. Add a small amount of the mixture - you don't want it to flow over the lip of the tin. You probably won't be able to turn the pancake to cook the other side - but you can try!!!

Pop Corn

Acknowledgements Melanie Thompson on the GuidingUK email list

Intended Result Yummy pop corn

Ingredients Cooking oil, popping corn, sugar (optional)

Tools Two similar foil pie or tart cases. Two or three wooden clothes pegs

Cooking Techniques In a small foil case which fits over the buddy burner or similar

cooker.

Method

Melanie said: We did buddy burners this week and used small pie trays (from individual bakewell tarts or similar). Put a drop or two of cooking oil in one, add about 10 popping corns in the fat and place another pie tray upside down on top. Use two or three clothes pegs to hold them together over the flame and when the popping stops hey presto! The girls loved this and some even tried melting sugar on the corn. They called this 'gummy bear corn' as it went all runny and melty!

Pineapple Upside-Down Cake

Intended Result A cake for one or two people.

Ingredients A sponge cake mix

A tin of pineapple rings

Tools A mixing bowl and spoon

A small clean tin, open at one end, such as a 6cm (2.25") high baked-

bean can

A second can, open at one end, larger than the first to fit over it.

Cooking Techniques In a tin over a buddy burner or similar cooker.

Method

Make up the mix as directed on the packet.

Place a slice of pineapple in the tin, and spoon some mixture on top.

Place on the buddy-burner stove, and then invert the second can over the top to keep the heat in.

Individual Pizzas in a Cardboard Oven

Acknowledgements Many thanks to Karl and Heidi Zorzi of Pleasanton, California for

this recipe

Intended Result Individual sized Pizzas

Ingredients Muffin, or similar as base.

Anything that is normally put on a pizza.

Tools Knife

Heatproof plate

Cooking Techniques Cardboard Oven

Method

Heidi says: Karl insisted that he knows you would say that there is no such thing as an English muffin in the USA, and any good Brit worth his salt would tell you that. But even with that in mind here is the recipe for the pizzas.

The English muffin pizzas are really just a English muffin cut in half with all the goodies on top. The assortment of toppings we generally use are pizza sauce, pepperoni, olives, sliced fresh tomatoes, and mozzarella cheese. We cover a cookie tin with tin foil and bake the little pizzas for approximately 10 minutes. That's it!

Scrambled Eggs in Baggies

Acknowledgements Many thanks to Heidi Zorzi of Pleasanton, California for this recipe

Intended Result Scrambled eggs individually cooked.

Ingredients Sufficient eggs

Milk (optional)

Seasoning as required

Tools Ziplock or roasting bags – baggies

Cooking Techniques Any cooker with pan of boiling water.

Method

Heidi says: I am hesitant to give you the recipe for the scrambled eggs because I, personally have never made them. However, Margaret, our fearless leader, has. She told me that you use a permanent marker and write your name on a ziplock sandwich baggie. You then drop 1 egg into the baggie and zip it shut. Then, you put that baggie into a second baggie and zip it shut. Then the scout squishes the egg around in the bag to scramble it. While all this is going on have a big pot of water on to boil. When the water is boiling drop the baggies into the water and let cook. Voila! Scrambled eggs.

Sponge Pudding

so that the flavouring may be varied.

Ingredients A sponge-pudding mix plus whatever the mix requires Jam and/or

syrup

Roasting bags with ties

Tools A mixing bowl and spoon

Cooking Techniques A buddy burner or similar cooker and a pan with water

Notes

Method

Make up the mix as directed. Spoon it into the roasting bag with jam or syrup. Put the roasting bag in the water and cook as directed.

Notes

If the water is already hot, the sponge pudding will take less time, but it's worth putting the bag into the water while it is heating to decrease the overall cooking time.

Stew

Intended Result A delicious slowly-cooked stew. By using a hay box, it is rather like

using a slow cooker.

Ingredients Use whatever recipe you usually use, this may be for a spaghetti

bolognese, a chicken stew, an Irish stew, or any other similar meal that

may be cooked slowly for a long time.

Tools A hay box

A dixie for the stew

A stove to get the stew ready for the hay box, and at the end to ensure

it is thoroughly hot.

Method

Make up the stew as usual, and heat well over a cooker.

Place in the dixie containing the stew in the hay box with the cushion on top and leave either all day or overnight.

Remove from the hay box and ensure the stew is thoroughly heated before serving.

Turkey in a Can

Acknowledgements Many thanks to Phyllis Miners of Ontario, Canada for this recipe

Intended Result A delicious roast turkey

Ingredients A 10 lb (4.5 - 5 kg) turkey or chicken.

A little oil

Tools A sturdy, approximately one inch (2.5 cm) diameter green stick

about 30 inches long (75 cm) An axe to shape the stick Heavy-duty Aluminium Foil

String Charcoal A metal dustbin

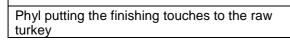
Bricks or similar to raise the dustbin off the ground

Cooking Techniques An upturned dustbin (garbage can) is used as an oven.

Method

Take a sturdy, probably one-and-a-half to two inch (4 to 5 cm) diameter green stick about 30 inches long (75 cm) (size may vary somewhat) and soak it in a stream or swimming pool over night. Sharpen the end of the stick with an axe and drive it into the ground. Choose a spot where the grass under the stick will not be burned--sand or dirt is best. Layer the ground around the stick with heavy-duty foil and put a knob of foil on the top of the stick to hang the bird on. Cover bird in oil hang on the stick feet down and tie the wings and legs to the body. Place lighted charcoal around the base of the stick, not touching the stick, cover the whole thing with a clean or new metal garbage can (dustbin). Prop the can up at the bottom, so a little air gets in under it and add charcoal as needed. A 10 lb turkey is a good size. How long does it take? Depends on the bird and the weather. Use a meat thermometer at the end to check how well done it is if you are not sure.







Phyl removing the garbage can to reveal the cooked turkey