

A Low Cost Portable Sink, Version 1.1

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My little shop does not have running water or sewer. After using waterless hand cleaner, I find that a quick rinse is necessary to remove the grimy residue.

Having a modest amount of running water was easy. I was given a 2 gallon container with a spigot attached. The sink took a bit more head scratching.

The resulting sink meets all of my goals:

- Low or no cost
- Self-stores the dirty water
- Is large enough to catch the water from my hands but still fits in a small space.

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You will need a 1 gallon and a 1/2 gallon jug.



The harder part is finding a polycarbonate tub that has no holes in it. The baby spinach we buy comes in such a container.



You will also need a 1-1/4 inch and a 1-1/2 inch diameter hole saw plus a drill.

The smaller hole saw should be slightly less than the outside diameter of the 1 gallon jug's mouth.



Use it to drill a hole in the bottom of the tub.

Centering it by eye is good enough.



Next, cut the 1/2 gallon jug about 4 inches from the bottom. I will call the old bottom the “top”.



Using the larger hole saw, drill through the top. I found a web bridging a V gap in the bottom. Snipping that web out made it easier to start the drill near center.



Place the top on the 1 gallon jug.



Using something thin and stiff, place the bottom of the “ruler” against the top of the 1 gallon jug’s lip.



Slide your fingers down the ruler until they contact the top. Lift out the ruler. The distance from the end of the ruler to your fingers is how far we must cut up on the four corners of the top. The above red line represents that distance.



Place the ruler against each corner of the top and mark the ends. Those extra marks were just a false start.

Then use your scissors to cut up to those marks.



The top should drop over the the 1 gallon jug and provide substantial resistance when you reach the flange.

The final step is to force fit the tub onto the jug's mouth. Push down until it seats on the top.

The tub will be well supported and I have not found any leaks.



This is my second sink. The first one got rather grimy plus I needed pictures for this article. I simply dumped out the gray water and tossed the mess in the trash.

The benefit of recycling this plastic must be weighed against the water needed to get it clean. Here in the desert, saving water is far more important than recycling that jug.

I welcome your comments and questions.

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