Fiberglass Tanks Converted Into Cheap Storage Shed

"I couldn't be happier with it," says Jim Kaczmarek Jim's Repair, Hastings, Minn, who converted a pair of 15-ft. long, 12-ft. dia. fiberglass tanks into a storage shed next to his shop.

The tanks are made from 1/2-in. thick fiberglass and were originally used to store linseed oil. Jim got them for free and a neighbor hauled them 20 miles on a trailer to Kaczmarek's place. He cut off one end of each tank and then placed both of them together end to end. He partially buried the tanks underground and then put in a concrete floor. He also cut double doors into both ends of the building.

He keeps a sandblaster, an air compressor, and an exhaust fan inside the building. Kaczmarek uses the fan to pull exhaust out of running vehicles inside the shop next door. Underground pipe runs from the fan to six outlets in the floor of the shop. The fan is wired to a push button inside the shop, so whenever Kaczmarek wants to use the fan, he runs a piece of hose from the vehicle he's working on to one of the outlets in the floor and turns on the fan.

The end of one 12-ft. dia. tank is used to store old tires. It has a door on one side and an asphalt floor.

"Regardless of where the vehicle is, with six floor outlets I always have access to an exhaust hose," says Kaczmarek, who also ran hoses from his air compressor and sandblaster into his shop. "The nice thing is that both the compressor and my sandblaster are outside my shop so I don't have to listen to a lot of noise or put up with dirt and dust. Another advantage is that they don't take up space inside the shop, where space is precious."

Jim Kaczmarek used a pair of 15-ft. long, 12-ft. dia. fiberglass tanks to make this storage shed that's located next to his shop. He cut off one end of each tank and then placed them together end to end.

Kaczmarek has put up other fiberglass tank buildings on his farm and he's happy with all of them.

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Homemade Fogger Controls Mosquitoes

A.E. Shelton Sr., Chattahoochee, Florida, says he has a mosquito problem that just won't quit, but with his homemade fogger, he can keep it under control.

"I got the idea for the fogger while I was serving as a Navy Seabee on Okinawa," he says.

After returning home to Florida, Shelton worked out the details. The fogger uses heat from a small gasoline engine to vaporize oil-based insecticides. Engine exhaust then blows the fogged insecticide out the side.

Shelton started with the frame from an old pressure washer. "Any kind of frame will do, but you need something with wheels so you can pull or push it," he says. "An old push-type power lawn mower with the blade removed would work fine, as long as the engine still runs."

Shelton mounted a 3 1/2 hp single cylinder mower engine on the pressure washer frame. He removed the muffler and screwed a length of threaded steel pipe onto the block in its place. He put a coupler on the end of the pipe so he could remount the muffler there.

Then he mounted a small plastic tank on the handles of the pressure washer. He fitted the tank with a valve and a length of copper tubing that runs down to the pipe on the engine block. He makes three or four wraps around the pipe and then inserts the end of the copper tube into a hole he drilled in the top of the pipe coupler. "The copper tube should be under 1/4 in. diameter so it's flexible enough to wrap tight around the exhaust pipe," Shelton says.

"It's really a simple setup," he continues. "I fill the plastic tank with the insecticide. It flows by gravity through the copper tube, is preheated as it flows around the steel pipe on the exhaust, and then vaporizes when it drips into the muffler through the hole in the coupler.

"It works best at about half throttle, and you need to let the engine warm up good before using it," he notes.

Fogger uses heat from a small gas engine to vaporize oil-based insecticides. Engine exhaust then blows the fogged insecticide out the side.

"You need only a very small amount of pesticide injected while fogging," he adds. "The brand I use is Burgess Bug Killer Insect Fog. I get it in a 1/2-gal. jug at Ace Hardware for about $12. This brand is for use in propane, electric and gas foggers. Be sure to follow all the safety precautions on the label."

Besides routinely using the fogger to control mosquitoes, Shelton says he's also used it to blow insecticide into a doghouse to wipe out a flea problem.

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Engine mounts on the frame of an old pressure washer. Insecticide is stored in a small plastic tank mounted on rig's handles.

Leon Sowers uses this ATV-pulled wagon to feed calves after they're weaned. Unloading auger is powered by hydraulic power unit that's driven by an 8 hp gas engine.

ATV-Pulled Feed Wagon

Leon Sowers used to carry grain to calves in 5-gal. buckets but it was a time-consuming job. So he designed and built a small feed wagon that he pulls behind his Polaris 500 ATV. He uses it to feed calves after they're weaned.

"I've never seen anything quite like it on the market. It works great and almost makes feeding calves a fun job," says Sowers, of Murdock, Kansas.

He designed the wagon with the same wheel width as his ATV so it follows the same wheel tracks, making it easier to pull in muddy pens. The wagon holds about 1,000 lbs. of either grain or pellets and is equipped with a hydraulic power unit driven by an 8 hp gas engine. The wagon's 4-in. dia. unloading auger is powered by a hydraulic motor mounted on the upper end of the auger.

"It unloads 30 lbs. in only 8 seconds. It's especially useful for feeding cattle in smaller pens because I can quickly and easily open and close gates. Also, it doesn't leave deep tracks like a tractor or pickup would," notes Sowers.

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