



THE SAVVY SURVIVALIST

10 DIY Fire Starters You Can Make at Home

■ Waxed Cotton Balls

How to Make: Melt paraffin or beeswax in a double boiler, dip plain cotton balls, and cool on wax paper.

Performance: Burn time 2–3 min; one ball can ignite twigs.

Storage Tip: Keep in Ziploc or pill bottle; tear open before use.

Best Use: Lightweight bug-out kits.

■ Wax-Coated Matches

How to Make: Dip strike-anywhere matches in wax; let dry.

Performance: Waterproof, storm resistant.

Storage Tip: Store in waterproof container; scrape wax before striking.

Best Use: Rainy or humid conditions.

■ Crayon Candles

How to Use: Light paper wrapper; crayon burns 10–15 min.

Performance: Small but steady flame.

Storage Tip: Keep in car, bag, or kit.

Best Use: Emergency backup light/tinder.

■ Pine Cone Fire Starters

How to Make: Dip dry pine cones in wax; cool.

Performance: Resin-rich; burns hot 10+ min.

Storage Tip: Store in mesh/dry sack.

Best Use: Campfires, cabin stoves.

■ Sawdust & Wax Cups

How to Make: Mix sawdust + wax in muffin liners.

Performance: Burns 8–12 min, good for damp wood.

Storage Tip: Wrap in foil or bags.

Best Use: Survival kits, stockpiles.

■ Egg Carton Starters

How to Make: Fill cardboard egg cups with lint or sawdust, pour wax, cut apart.

Performance: Burn 5–10 min, steady flame.

Storage Tip: Keep dry; cut in halves if needed.

Best Use: Campfires, backyard preps.

■ Waxed Cloth Torches

How to Make: Soak cloth strips in wax, wrap on stick, let harden.

Performance: Burns 15–30 min as a torch.

Storage Tip: Wrap in foil until needed.

Best Use: Night chores, signaling.

■ Petroleum Jelly Cotton Balls

How to Make: Rub Vaseline into cotton balls, store in canisters.

Performance: Burns 4–6 min with hot flame.

Storage Tip: May melt in heat; use hard container.

Best Use: Wet or windy conditions.

■ Waxed Paper Rolls

How to Make: Twist newspaper logs, dip in wax.

Performance: Burns 5–8 min steady.

Storage Tip: Cut into sections.

Best Use: Backup tinder for camps.

■ Dryer Lint Pods

How to Make: Stuff lint in TP rolls, dip ends in wax.

Performance: Burns hot 3–5 min.

Storage Tip: Wrap in wax paper/foil.

Best Use: Fast tinder for field fires.

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