



## Hoop Fire Hose Hammock

Adapted from instructions submitted for the Hose2Habitat Enrichment Contest 2015.  
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**General Description:** The hoop hammock is a fire hose hammock stretched over a ring and hung on a swivel to make a suspended spinning swing.

**Species:** Adapting ring size as appropriate may be used primates, small cats, otters, bears, and many other mammals.

**Uses:** Playing, spinning, swinging, lounging, napping, eating, nest building, and more.

**Safety Concerns:** Entanglement in the fire hose suspending the hammock and the weave. If this is a concern, a length of PVC pipe can be inserted into the 4 hoses to stiffen them and the weave can be made close or open, as preferred. Ingestion of rubber from inside length of fire hose is a potential concern which can be prevented by using double-jacketed canvas fire hose and removing and not using the inner rubber-lined layer. (This makes it much lighter and easier to work with too!)





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### **Items Needed:**

Fire hose (amount depends on diameter of hoop and width of fire hose)  
Tool to cut fire hose  
Plastic hoop, diameter as desired (such as plastic culvert)  
Tool to cut and sand plastic hoop (if hoop is not precut and sanded)  
Bolts (about 36 each; 1.5" x 0.25"; size/amount depend on width of fire hose and diameter of hoop).  
Lock nuts  
Fender washers (approximately 72; twice the number of bolts as 2 will be used with each bolt)  
3 pieces of lumber about 12" long for stabilization and drill base  
Drill and drill bits  
Swivel or other loop hooks for top attachment (optional)  
Chain for hanging (optional)

**STEP 1.** Cut ring from large diameter corrugated drain pipe or PVC. Sand the edges smooth.



**STEP 2.** Cut pieces of fire hose long enough to span the diameter of the hoop plus 5" - 7" on each end to fold over and secure around the hoop with bolts. Weave pieces together to fill in the space.

Make weave tight or loose as necessary to minimize entrapment risk.





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**STEP 3.** Attach 4 pieces of fire hose at each “corner” of the hammock at the small opening where the fire hose changes directions. Make sure all 4 long hanging pieces are exactly the same length or the hammock will not balance well. Chain can be put inside the fire hose for added strength.

**STEP 4.** Predrill holes about 2” from end of two scraps of lumber as shown. Loop fire hose around hoop and attach end of fire hose to itself with bolts, washers, and nuts (with nuts on underside). Layer 2 pieces of fire hose between 3 pieces of lumber as show. The bottom piece protects the work surface; the middle piece is a spacer to ensure holes are in the correct location for a tight fit; the top piece helps prevent fire hose from getting bound up and twisting.



**STEP 5.** Use the predrilled holes in the lumber as a guide and drill through the top piece of fire hose in the correct location for the bolt. Use lumber to sandwich fire hose and hold it in place. Use caution. Threads from canvas fire hose can become caught in the drill making the drill and materials difficult to control. After drilling, enlarge the drilled holes in the fire hose by hand, if needed.





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**STEP 6.** Move top piece of lumber and top piece of fire hose aside. Drill through bottom piece of fire hose and lumber “sandwich” and use the previously drilled hole in the lumber as guide for placement of where to drill the hole in the bottom piece of fire hose.



**STEP 7.** Secure each piece of fire hose with a nut, bolt, and two washers (a washer on each side to prevent the nuts and bolts from pulling through the fire hose). Repeat with each piece of fire hose. Pull the fire hose as tight as possible when securing the second end of a piece so that the hammock will be taut. When done, trim excess fire hose, leaving only about 2" past the nut and bolt.



**STEP 8.** When all strips are attached, turn the hammock over. Admire your work and put it to work!

