



Fire Hose Ball Instructions

Hose2Habitat fire hose ball instructions are here with step-by-step color pictures! Questions? Comments? Let us know! www.hose2habitat.org Lisa@hose2habitat.org

Items needed:

(3) 50' rolls of fire hose (This can vary depending on the size of the ball):
You can use any width. We used 3" hose (5" lay flat).

Cutting mechanism: We use an electric fabric cutter, but box cutter or a strong, sharp blade/knife will work.

Tape measurer

Marker

Colored tape or another way to label the lengths of fire hose

Drill and drill bit. (This is to drill holes for the bolts; an awl can be used instead.)

6 each of the following:

Bolts: 1.5 inch long / 0.25 inches in diameter

Nuts: 0.25 inch

12 Washers: 0.25 inch

The bolts, washers, and nuts can be larger in diameter, but the bolts should not be so long that they protrude any more than necessary.

Socket set and wrench to secure the bolts and nuts.



Please see over 60 pictures with instructions and let us know if you have questions. This is the finished fire hose ball. With the size fire hose we used, this fire hose ball weighs more than 100lbs!



Fire Hose Ball Instructions

PREPARATION

Unroll the Hose



If the hose you are using still has the couplings, you will need to remove them. Unroll each section of hose, and line up the couplings as shown. **Note: If the hose does not have couplings, leave two (2) rolls coiled up, and unroll one that will be used later.**

PREPARATION

Cut the couplings off



Cutting the couplings off:

We use an electric fabric cutter because it's the fastest and easiest way to cut through the material. You can use box cutters or knives as well, it just takes longer. The couplings are typically made of aluminum or brass. They can be recycled or used in other enrichment items.



Fire Hose Ball Instructions

PREPARATION

Re-roll two lengths of fire hose



Re-roll two (2) of the sections of hose (coil). These coils will be used for the center of the ball.

Note: Re-roll the coils as tight as possible.

Leave one section of fire hose unrolled. This section will be used for the weave.



Fire Hose Ball Instructions

Step 1

Measuring for the length of the for straps needed to weave around the two center fire hose coils:

- Stack the two coils on top of each other.
- Measure from the ground and across the top then, double that number.
- Always add 6" – 10" to that measurement to be sure there is enough. It is much easier to cut the excess off the straps than to start over because the straps are too short.





Fire Hose Ball Instructions

Step 2

Cutting the four straps to weave around the two center fire hose coils:

- Using the remaining unrolled length of fire hose, measure, mark, and cut four strips of equal length. (The remaining hose will be used a little later for the banding.)
- Once the four straps are cut, mark each strip at the ends with a different color. (We used different colored duct tape.) This will make building the weave much easier. We use Yellow, Blue, Orange, and Green.



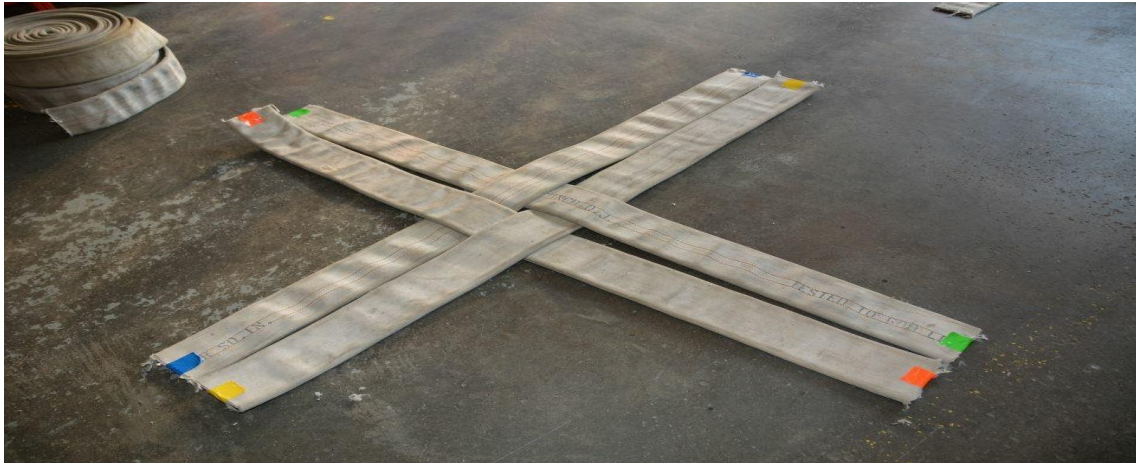


Fire Hose Ball Instructions

Step 3

Laying out the base:

- Take the four (4) straps, and lay out in the following manner:
 - Yellow over Orange, Under Green
 - Blue next to Yellow, under Orange, over Green
- Note: The strips should intersect as close to center as possible.**



Step 4

Create the bands:

- Measure the outside of the coil. Add an additional 8" to the number.
- Using the un-rolled hose; measure, mark, and cut two (2) strips.
- Measure 4" in from each end and make a mark.
- Bring the two ends together.
 - Line up the ends with the mark
 - Drill a hole through both ends
 - Place a bolt through the hold to secure them together





Fire Hose Ball Instructions



Step 5

Weaving the bottom band:

- This step can be completed before or after the band is bolted together.
- Left to Right:
 - Yellow under band
 - Blue up through the middle, and over the top of the band
 - Orange under band
 - Green up through the middle and over the top of the band
 - Blue under band
 - Yellow up through the middle and over the top of the band
 - Green under Band
 - Orange up through the middle and over the top of the band





Fire Hose Ball Instructions

Step 6

Inserting the bottom coil:

- The bottom coil should fit tightly into the band. If the band is too tight, trim the coil. If it is too loose, un-bolt the band, pull the band tight, and re-secure the band (it will require the hole to be drilled again).



- Once the coil is in the band, kneel on the coil and pull the weave straps tight.

Step 7

Weaving the top band:

- The weave straps Left to Right:
 - Yellow through the middle and over the top of the band
 - Blue under the band
 - Orange through the middle and over the top of the band
 - Green under the band
 - Blue through the middle and over the top of the band
 - Yellow under the band
 - Green through the middle and over the top of the band
 - Orange under the band





Fire Hose Ball Instructions

Step 8

Inserting the top coil:

- The top coil should fit tightly into the band. If the band is too tight, trim the coil. If it is too loose, un-bolt the band, pull the band tight, and re-secure the band (it will require the hole to be drilled again).



- Once the coil is in the band, kneel on the coil and pull the weave straps tight.

Step 9

Securing the weave straps:

- The final steps in making a fire ball are securing the weave straps. **For the safety of the animals, it is very important that the straps are as tight as possible.** You may need to use a mallet to assist with this. If the straps are too loose, they can potentially cause harm to the animal. **For the safety of the animals you should try to hide as much hardware as you can.** The ends of the bolts should not extend more than ½" past the nut.

Step 9 (A)

- Bring Blue ends across the top coil, pull tight, drill hole, and secure with a bolt. Cut off the excess.





Fire Hose Ball Instructions

Step 9 (B)

- Green will go under the Blue. Pull the straps tight, drill hole, and secure with a bolt.



Step 9 (C)

- Yellow will go under Green. Pull the straps tight, drill hole, and secure with a bolt.





Fire Hose Ball Instructions

Step 9 (D)

- Orange goes under Yellow. Pull the straps tight, drill hole, and secure with a bolt. Cut off any excess. A mallet or hammer might be needed to help tighten the straps.



Fire Hose Ball Instructions

Step 10
Enjoy!!!

