

Building with PVC Pipe

Look on internet for all of the different things you can build with PVC pipe.
If you can imagine it, you can build it with PVC pipe!

Some good websites: <http://www.pvcworkshop.com/> & ehow.com

Questions? Email me, Eve Albin, at frogmail1@msn.com

Where to get PVC

- Hardware stores like Lowe's and Home Depot.
 - Be sure to check out both, they seem to each carry different items.
- Free PVC.
 - This free PVC can be obtained from Landscapers, Plumbing Contractors, and Building contractors, and scrap piles in new neighborhoods. Often they will have scraps of PVC they would love for you to haul away. Just cut to fit your needs. Also see <http://www.pvcworkshop.com/> for instructions on salvaging fittings
- Post a message on Craigslist.com that reads: "I'll haul away your used or discarded PVC pipe free. Call (insert your name & phone number)"

Cutting PVC

- Go to Home Depot and ask them to cut it.
 - I talked to the manager at the Home Depot on 55 and they said they cut PVC pipe for customers.
- Use a PVC tube cutter (similar to a pipe cutter).
 - This is the easiest tool I found for cutting PVC. It's so easy a kid could easily do it, but it's the most expensive option (\$26). Maybe you can ask adults around your neighborhood and school to see if anyone has one. Be aware there are different sizes for different size pipes – try it out in the store to be sure (the labels are not accurate.)
- Use a hack saw.
 - This will be harder to get a straight line, but it only cost \$6.
- If your cut is jagged and not smooth, you can remove any burrs with a medium flat file or rough sandpaper.

Gluing PVC

- Remember any gluing of PVC is permanent.

- If you have to glue yours together to give it enough strength, I would not recommend gluing anything until you are ready for it to be permanently placed. It will be very difficult to transport if it's too big and all glued together.
- There is glue specifically for gluing PVC pipe together.
- PVC glue dries fast, so you have to be quick.
 - Use a cotton swab to put a light amount of the glue to both the fitting and the pipe and put them together. Be sure they are turned the right way!

Gluing Wood (and Other Materials) to PVC

Many crafters report excellent bonding results with the silicone adhesives *Amazing Goop* and *E6000*, which are available at most any craft supply outlet or online. Follow the instructions on the containers.

How to Paint PVC Projects

- Wipe off/Clean your PVC piping.
 - There is dust on it that will make the paint not stay on as well.
- Find a good place that your parents approve of to do the spray painting.
 - It needs to be well ventilated so that you aren't breathing the fumes from the paint. It also needs to be away from anything that the overspray could get on. Setting your object in a big cardboard box out on your lawn works well. The box will catch most of the overspray and if a little spec gets on your lawn, it's not the end of the world. Be VERY careful not to get overspray on anything – this include your garage floor and your deck.
- First use a spray primer/sealer.
 - This is found in the paint section of Home Depot or Lowe's.
- After the primer dries, use canned spray paint to paint your color.
 - There is spray paint formulated for use on plastic. This would probably stay on better but it costs a dollar or so more.

Shop Light Stand

This easy portable stand can obviously be used to hold or suspend lighting. But it can also be used for so many more things. What about dressing it as a person or making it into a tree. It can hold a birdhouse or a sun. You can drape garland between two of them to make a garden scene. The possibilities are only limited by your imagination!



Photo 1



- 3 1-inch Tees
- 4 1-inch Ells
- 6 8-inch lengths of 1-inch PVC pipe (I used 12-inch lengths)
- 1 6-foot length of 1-inch PVC pipe

Glue the six 8-inch lengths of pipe as shown in Photo 1. For easy storage, don't glue the six foot upright length to the base.

Clothing Rack

I found this on-line. It would work great to hang sheets or shower curtains on to be decorated for backdrops. Put butcher paper across it for a sign. Hang things from it. Modify it to be not as wide for a door.



- 4 5-foot lengths of 1-inch PVC pipe
- 4 12-inch lengths of 1-inch PVC pipe
- 2 4-way connectors (if you can't find these use 4 Tees and 2 6-inch length of PVC pipe) Your rack will be a little taller, but it'll be essentially the same.
- 6 PVC elbow joints