Building an incinerator for medical waste

Overview

- In some epidemics, you will need to prevent germs on items (such as bed sheets and clothes that have been contaminated by the patient's body fluids) from spreading to other people.
- This is especially important when you are dealing with Ebola, Marburg fever, Lassa Fever, plague, and monkeypox.
- An incinerator can burn such items and prevent the disease from spreading to others.
- Do not incinerate items yourself if an alternative is available, such as incineration in health facilities.
- Be very careful when building and using incinerators, because they can be dangerous. Always have to hand something to put the fire out (for example, a bucket of water or sand).

Tips for building an incinerator

- · Keep a bucket of water or sand by you in case you need to put the fire out.
- If you have never built an incinerator before, ask a professional or someone who has already built one to help or advise you.
- Wear protective clothing, in particular gloves, when handling contaminated clothing or other items belonging to a deceased person. Place items carefully in the incinerator and leave them to burn until they have turned to ash, destroying all the germs.
- Tell people in the community what you are doing so that they know to stay away and keep safe.

STEPS FOR BUILDING AN INCINERATOR



- 1. Find a 220 litre (55 gallon) drum.
- 6. Cut 4 holes in the sides of the drum. Thread 2 metal rods through these holes so that they cross inside the drum.







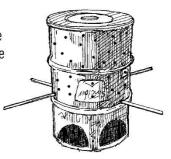
- 2. Cut open the drum.

 Remove and save the top cutaway piece.
- 7. Punch holes in the top cutaway piece to make a platform.



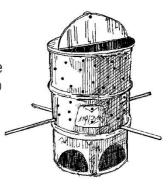


- **3.** Hammer the edges of the drum so that they are no longer sharp.
- 8. Pierce a series of holes in the side of the drum, above the crossed rods to improve the draw of the fire.





- 4. Cut 3 half-moon openings just above the top end of the drum.
- 9. Cut away half of the top.
 Attach the wire loops to the cutaway half to make a trap door. Attach another loop for a handle to open the trap door.





- Turn the drum upside down.
 The bottom of the drum
 becomes the top.
- 10. Place the platform (7) inside the drum so that it rests on the crossed rods.

