

How to build a rat trap tunnel

Rat trap tunnels are designed to protect your children, domestic animals and native birds from interfering with rat traps.



Materials required:

- Treated timber, 150mm x 25mm. 3 @ 460mm long; 1 @ 420mm long (conveniently adds up to a 1.8 metre paling)
- 12 x galvanised jolt-head nails (60mm)
- Galvanised square aviary mesh (12mm x 12mm squares)
- Staples

Tools required:

- Hammer
- Skill saw
- Router (if available)
- Wire cutters or tin snips
- Staple gun (or hammer & small fencing staples)

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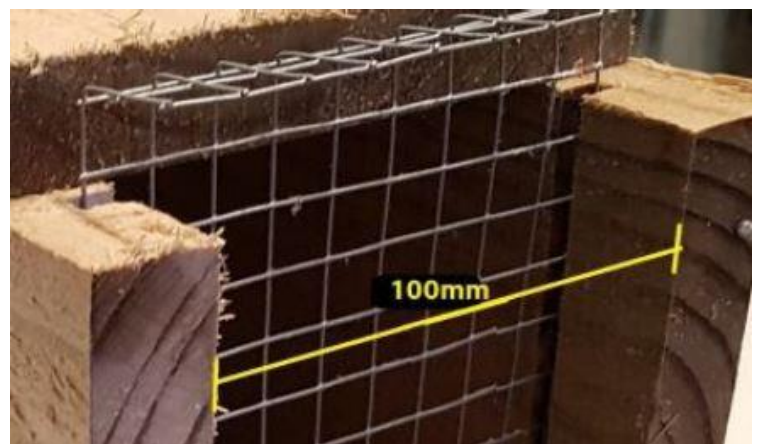
CUT YOUR TIMBER into the required four lengths. The lengths CAN be longer than the suggested 460mm and 420mm, but no shorter. The important thing is that the lid is 40mm shorter than the walls and floor.

CUT THE GROOVES into the two walls. This is for the wire mesh sliding hatch. Make the cuts 10mm deep, and 25-30mm from the end. A sliding drop-saw is handy for this – but a steady hand-held skill saw works fine too. If you have a router, even better!



NAIL THE BOX TOGETHER.

Put six nails through the lid into the walls & six corresponding ones up through the floor. Make sure you butt the box lid, hard against the end of the walls at the ‘fixed mesh’ end, so you leave the cut grooves well clear of the box top. Take care when joining the ‘sliding hatch’ end in particular, that the walls are 100mm apart. Too much more or less, and the 115mm hatch will fit poorly - sticking, or worse, just popping out.



CUT THE MESH ENDS.

Both are 14 squares tall, with the sliding hatch 9 squares wide and the ‘fixed’ end 10 squares wide.



The sliding mesh gate is 9 squares by 14.



The fixed end is 10 squares by 14, with a 4x4 hole.

The sliding hatch needs to be cut pretty tidily so it won't jam, but the fixed end can have some rough edges, as they won't over-hang the timber. For the sliding hatch, bend two rows of squares over at one end. An easy way is hang two rows over the edge of your box & bend the mesh 90 degrees. Staple the fixed end onto the box. Line up the grids with the edge of the box floor, so the entrance is neat and tidy for the rat. Use wire cutters to cut a 4x4 square hole for the rats. **HAPPY TRAPPING!**

*Thanks Predator Free Miramar for sharing these instructions and useful tips!