

Carving a gnome in snow!

Making snow gnomes is a great way to learn how to sculpt in snow.

What do I need?

- One 19 litre (5 gallon) bucket like the one shown--or similar!
Many restaurants will give you a pail—even if it's square, it's OK!
- One washed yogurt container. Ensure you eat the yogurt first!
- A (robust) plastic knife. Parent/Guardian approval and supervision is recommended unless you are an adult, in which, case go for it!
- Optional: a QP7000 snow pounder that you can make with these [instructions](#).
This simple tool is used to compact the snow—but mittens work well too!



How to create a gnome in snow!

There are three parts to the process on the next two pages.

A) Filling the pails of snow

B) Stacking the towers

C) Carving the gnome

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A snow sculpture of a man's face with a large nose and a slight smile.

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<https://snowbankproductions.weebly.com>

Packing snow can be used, but NON-packing snow is ideal!

How to create a gnome in snow!

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A. Filling the pails of snow

1. You might want to print these two pages.
Optionally, position them back to back inside a plastic sleeve.
2. Dress warmly and go outside after a snowfall.
3. You will need: 19 litre pail, washed yogurt container, robust plastic knife, snow shovel.
4. Locate a flat spot for your build that will be good for pictures too.
5. Stomp the existing snow on the ground if necessary, to make a stable surface.
6. Shovel snow (preferably fluffy) into the pail to the top.
7. Use both mittens to pound it down. The full pail will now be about $\frac{1}{2}$ full.
Alternatively, use a QP7000 snow pounder—build instructions elsewhere on the website. The pounder however is not necessary for success!
8. Repeat step 6 & 7 until the pail is totally full and packed.
9. Use your shovel to level off the top.
10. Flip the pail upside down onto your target location. Make sure the handle is within your grip.
11. Immediately take off the pail with a **'twist and jerk up'** motion to release the pail. If you use a square pail (that maybe a restaurant gave you) skip the twist part—just jerk the pail up. If you have trouble, check the [FAQ](#) page on the website for solutions.
12. Build at least one more tower, but why not make many! Remove the pail each time.
13. Lastly, push some fluffy snow into the yogurt container. Compact as you go and smooth off the top. Leave this snow in the container.
14. Go inside and get warm. You need to let these towers and yogurt container **'sinter'** for two or more hours. The FAQ section of the website has more precise details on sintering times. Some let the pails sinter overnight. Drink some water to hydrate. Just before you go outside again, go to the washroom—don't be like Thomas in the famous book by Robert Munsch "*Thomas' snowsuit*". Dress more warmly than the first time as you will be standing around carving. If you get cold, it will no longer be fun!
15. Proceed to the carving area as you are about to create magic.
Or at least your first attempt!



B. Stacking the towers

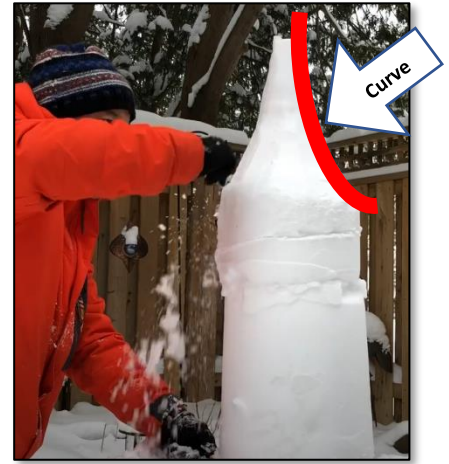
1. Carefully lift one tower on top of the other tower. In the unlikely event it's stuck to the ground, review the FAQ section of the website for help. As you lift it, slowly flip it upside down. This action allows the smooth top surface of the tower you are holding to attach seamlessly to the tower already resting on the ground.
2. Take the yogurt container in your hand and attempt to release the snow. If necessary, tap the bottom to encourage the snow to pop out. Sometimes you might have to slightly compress the sides to loosen it.
3. Slowly empty the yogurt container 'plug' of snow onto the top of your top tower which will help make the hat a little higher.

Wow! That was a lot of work! Building the towers is a critical step in your journey! You are now ready to start the adventure of becoming a snow sculptor! Take a deep breath, take a look around and feel great that you are outside taking on this challenge!



C. Carving the gnome!

1. **Hat:** gently rest one or two fingers lightly on top of the tower to give it a bit of stability as you carve. Start carving the top into a bit of a point using your robust plastic knife. Don't go for a finished look at this point. Leave some left to it. You will refine it later.
2. Now that you have the top section of the hat roughed out, it's time to cut off big chunks of snow from that top pail. Move around the tower as you slice off large sections to shape the hat. The bottom of the hat should be just below the joint between the two towers. Notice the displayed curve on the picture at right. This is what you are after, but you are in charge. How would you like your hat to look?
3. Once you have a shape you like, you can 'polish' the hat with the back side of your mitts to dull the cut lines you made. Gentle swipes, top to bottom should do it.
4. Next, begin cutting a 2" deep cut around the entire bottom of the hat. Ensure you curve the knife up into an arch where the nose will push up the hat—see picture.
5. **Nose:** Begin by creating a roughly 2" deep cut in a fairly large circle to define the outside edge of the nose. Next, start carving the sphere shaped nose and cutting away snow from around the area of the nose to allow it to appear more defined. Next, slice snow away from just underneath the brim of the entire hat.
6. **Beard:** You will cut numerous V grooves into the beard area. Start just under the nose, and cut a roughly 1" deep line towards the ground. Your cut angle will be about 45°. Now cut the other 45 to complete the V groove. Next, continue cutting swoops into the beard area. The next cut could swoop left. A third could be shorter in the area that still needs work between the first two cuts. Continue making random V cuts until you are approaching where the ears would be. To keep it simple, the ears have been ignored. Perhaps you will attempt ears in a future gnome!
7. As a final step, finish refining the very top of the hat. Will you put a sharp point on it? But work slowly on this fragile piece. Don't let your excitement to finish lead to a hasty cut that knocks the top off!



There! You did it! Your first gnome!
Will you now make more or just marvel
in your amazing creation?

Option: Share your creation on social media with the hashtag [#snowsculptingclub](#)
Club membership not required.