

Making a gnome in snow!

Making snow gnomes is a great way to learn how to sculpt in snow. It's fairly easy and brings joy to others!

What do I need?

- A 5 gallon (19 litre) 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!



What's next?

1. If you are a visual learner, watch the 9 minute how-to **YouTube** video using this [link](#).
2. If written instructions are your thing, print out these pages and begin your study! You can always do both!

How to create a gnome in snow!

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

- A) Making the pails of snow.
- B) Stacking the towers.
- C) Carving the gnome.

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

Snowbank Productions
Matt Morris
Snow Sculptor
Email: mattjmorris@gmail.com

Instagram: snowbankproductions
Twitter: Matthew_Morris
<https://snowbankproductions.weebly.com>



My 10' gnome that started the whole idea!



How to create a gnome in snow!

© January, 2021, Matt Morris

A. Making the pails of snow

1. Print these two pages. Protect them when outside with a plastic sleeve if possible—positioned back to back.
2. Dress warmly and go outside after a snowfall.
3. You will need: 19 litre pail, washed yogurt container, robust plastic knife, snow shovel. It is recommended that a parent or guardian supervise the use of the plastic knife or alternative.
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 7 probably 4 more times until the pail is totally full and packed.
9. Use your shovel to level off the top.
10. Grab the handle of the pail and flip it upside down onto your target spot.
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.
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 hours. The FAQ section of the website has more precise details on sintering times. 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, 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 it. If necessary, 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. Carve 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 heft 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 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 with a small swoop to the right. 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.