

# How to make a small tower of snow using a 5 gallon pail:

1. Obtain a 19 litre (5 gallon) pail.
2. Fill about half the pail with clean fluffy snow. **Non-packing snow is best.** Avoid crusty old snow from earlier in the season.
3. Pack it in using your mittens. Your packing may not look perfect and that's ok.
4. Repeat this load/pack process until the pail is full.
5. When full, flip the pail upside down onto a level spot on the ground. Make sure your grip includes any handle. Some may need to ask a strong helper with this tricky part. Or just try to do it. If you fail, just start again.
6. It's now time to release the pail. Give the pail a little twist while you sharply pull up. This will release it from the snow. Now slowly remove the pail completely. The YouTube video below gives you a demo.
7. Leave the little snow tower untouched for about two hours to allow it to 'snow sinter'. This is where the snow bonds together. The wait period is crucial to success. Do NOT touch the snow while it is sintering as it will be quite fragile initially.
8. Consider making more, knowing that you will get faster as you perfect your system!
9. Many new enthusiasts make a bunch one evening and let them sinter all night for fun the next day!
10. Once it has sintered for a few hours (or overnight) celebrate your amazing tower of snow! You rock!
11. Use plastic utensils, a cake decorating spatula or other safe creative tools to carve!



Note: it's so hard not to use exclamation marks for those last steps!

## Extra tips:

1. **Packing snow:** Packing snow can be used but shorten the sinter time. Remember though that **non-packing** snow results in the most consistent medium for carving.
2. **Releasing the pail:** In the very unlikely event you have issues with this step, check out the FAQ page under the SNOW SCULPTING CLUB menu item.
3. **Sintering:** Search the internet for 'snow sintering' and learn how snow binds together. This is the major trick of this process. If you don't let it sinter, your beautiful tower may fall apart as soon as you touch it. The colder it is, the longer the time needed to sinter. Why not leave it overnight?
4. **Two ways to dress Warmly:** Building towers is hard physical work while carving is not. Once you build, and the towers are sintering, go inside to warm up. When you go back outside later, ensure that you dress **MORE** warmly than the first time. Keeping warm allows you to enjoy the carving experience. Think of how differently XC skiers vs snowmobiles dress. It's all about appropriate clothing for the level of activity. Socks made of wool are the warmest.
5. **Quarter Pounder:** When packing the snow into the pail, a mittens works well. If you want an even better pack, make a **Quarter Pounder**. For instructions, click on the **SPECIAL FEATURES** menu item and then **SNOW POUNDERS**. I call my creation the 'Quarter Pounder'. It's the 7<sup>th</sup> pounder I have designed and its specific name is impressive--the QP7000. The 'quarter' part of its name comes from the fact that the pounding surface is sized to one quarter of the bottom of a typical 5 gallon pail.
6. You don't have to use the pail I recommend as almost any pail will do. Ideally you want the bottom of the pail to have a slightly smaller radius/circumference than the top. That way you have a chance of it popping out!



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QP7000