

Emergency Alcohol Heater

The following was sent to me in an e-mail for my comment

The Plans & Promotion

Keep toilet paper roll (without cardboard) inside a 1-qt paint can, covered with lid, until use, along with four pints (minimum) 70% isopropyl alcohol (this will warm car for about 24 hours). (Don't use denatured alcohol.) When ready to use, saturate toilet paper with alcohol while in can, light until chill is gone, then blow out flame. Burns without toxic fumes. Burns hot (so you may want to test outside first). BUT, it does give off water vapors that consume oxygen. Be sure to leave windows open slightly (1-2 inches) when burning to allow oxygen to be replenished.

The Comments

We did these at a homemaking activity recently, except we used the pumpkin pie sized cans (not pumpkin pie cans literally, just that size approximately)--the kind with removable/sealable lids. One roll of toilet paper with the cardboard tube removed...carefully put into the can. One regular size bottle of rubbing alcohol (16 oz/1 pint size) is poured into it & it is sealed. Supposed to be good for 8 hours of burning, and before the tissue starts burning you blow it out and refill with another 16 oz. of rubbing alcohol.

The Truth About Emergency Alcohol Can Heaters

These things are fun to look at and people think they are a real solution, however, most people do not understand the reality of what they will do, and will not do.

Trust me when I say you don't ever want to use one of these to try and heat your car, extremely hazardous for several reasons.

Its usefulness around the house is very limited also.

For space heating, it is of no real value.

- > Consider that anhydrous (meaning no water in it, or 200 proof) Isopropyl alcohol has a heat content of approximately 115,000 BTUs per gallon.
- > Most rubbing alcohol is about 20% water, so the BTU content by volume is reduced to 92,000 BTUs per gallon.
- > But then when you burn the alcohol with water in it you are going to consume

about another 10,000 BTUs to boil off the water, meaning that the useful BTU output from the gallon of 160 proof rubbing alcohol will be around 82,000 BTU, and if the alcohol you have is the 60% (120 proof) variety it will be considerably lower.

- > Now in the case of this example you are using a pint of alcohol, or 1/8 gallon, therefore you will have a net heat gain into the room of 10,250 BTUs.
- > The typical house furnace in Utah consumes about 120,000 BTU per hour. So this DIY alcohol burner will heat your house for 5.1 minutes if the house is already warm.
- > If you wait until your house is cold before you light it, you will not notice any benefit at all.
- > You can, however, use this device to warm a little water for a little soup or broth.
- > Or you could melt a little snow so you can have a little water to drink. It will also give off a little light in a dark room to cheer you up.
- > However, the biggest use they have is to make people feel good while they are making them, so their attitude is more positive while they think they are getting prepared.
- > The REAL problem is that when it is time to use it during a very difficult time, and things are not working as you think they should, and you don't understand why, you become confused and quit. In other words, your attitude is shot down because you had not created your own L.U.C.K. (First Law of Survival— **L**aboring **U**nder **C**orrect **K**nowledge).

I seek to help people with their preparations for the future — create a lot of **LUCK** when they need it most.

Sincerely,



Jim Phillips

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THE PROVIDENT LIVING TIMES

