

Perrin's Do-It-Yourself Home Gasoline Depot Project

Here's a great do-it-yourself idea for the house or the retreat. And this is a project that I actually did myself maybe ten years ago. Sadly, I no longer have this gem and I didn't think to take any pictures back then. What I've done below is recreate the concept with some easy to follow instructions.

This project is fun and useful. I'm not sure how or when I first got the idea but I did. I had a premonition about fuel prices and shortages. Can goods, water, and bullets I knew how to stockpile. But what about gas for the cars?

I can't even remember if I looked into the idea. It's more likely I just plunged in and made my own little gasoline depot. Follow my method and you can keep an extra 25 gallons of gas on hand just in case.

And let me tell you: the case will arise. Maybe half a year after I built my project, I had to use it. A regional pipeline problem cut the supplies to service stations. Prices rose and quantities dropped. My neighbor at the time worked for the petroleum supplier in question. And he assured me the flow would be restored in a few days - maybe a week. Very reassuring ... unless you're close to empty and all the stations in the area have plastic bags over the pumps.

Enter the gasoline depot! And I did. I retrieved the gas I had there and there was just enough to get both of my vehicles through until the pipeline was running again.

This episode taught me the value of prepping like few others. Life has certainly changed since then but the concept is still sound. Here's how you can make your own gasoline (or diesel) storage.

The Materials and Tools:

- Large Plastic Deck Box;
- 5 5-gallon Gas Cans;
- Gasoline (duh);
- Sta-Bil (or other fuel stabilizer);
- Suitable Backyard Spot; and
- A Shovel.

Continued: read on:

Location



(Not Perrin's former backyard)

Pick a corner of your yard which is out of the way and shaded. The shade is important to reduce heat and vapor loss in the fuel. The ideal spot is away from the house for obvious reasons. And try to make it a secluded spot. My depot was by the back fence and partially obstructed by two larger bushes; it was not visible from the street.

Keep going:

The Containers



Photo by Sportsman Guide.

I suppose a purpose-made gasoline tank is the best option. However, as with many other projects, you use what you have. I had a large, hinged-lid, plastic deck box. After many years I found I did not use it for much and had relegated it to the very back of the backyard - down behind those bushes.

The beauty of these boxes is that they are rugged and of decent size. I can't remember the exact dimensions of mine but it easily accommodated 5 5-gallon gas cans (the modern squarish variety).



Photo by Lowes.

I had two cans to start with and I purchased three more for the project. There are many models available (as with the box containers). Use your imagination and what you find.

A word of warning: the new cans are of terrible design. They all sport safety caps for self-venting. This is important with gas but the build made pouring rather difficult - especially

with the larger cans. For adding fuel to a car from the new cans, I recommend using a small funnel. Otherwise you're right up on the gas cap and it's an awkward, strenuous experience.

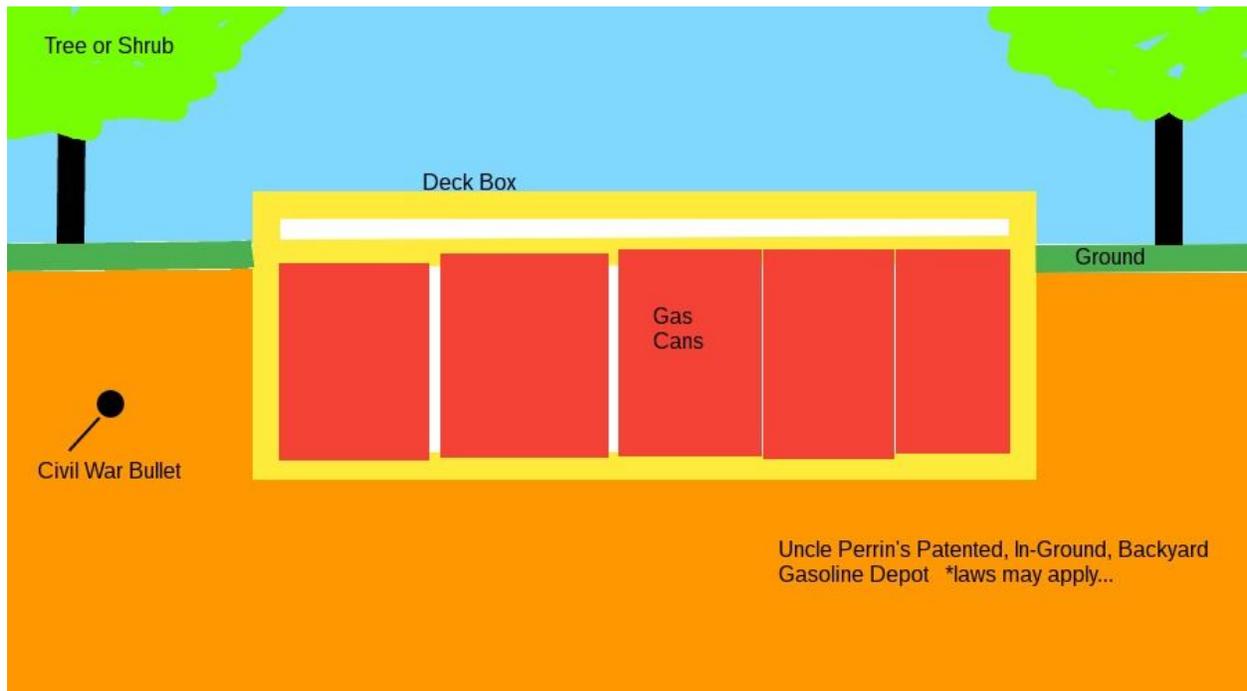
Treat for Storage



Photo by Amazon.

I chose a higher-octane, premium fuel for storage. I'm not sure there was a science there - just my consideration. I did, however, add Sta-bil fuel stabilizer to the gas. This chemical is cheap and will extend the life of the fuel. Follow the instructions on the bottle for adequate mixing.

The Project



Crude Diagram by Perrin Lovett.

My recommendation for site placement is to partially bury the box. This does several things. First, it keeps the yard somewhat uncluttered. Second, it provides a little security. Gasoline is dangerous and I figured it was better off in a semi-bunker setting. Also this makes it more difficult for others to see what you've done. My thinking is the less attention, the better.

I dug a hole for the box about a foot deep, maybe a little more. Once the box was in place only the lid was above the ground. Backfill as needed for a snug fit. My box's lid was a dark green so it was naturally camouflaged with the grass and bushes.

Before I added the cans I did a little more preparation. First I drilled a few small holes on the sides, just under the lip. This provided ventilation. I also dusted the inside with insecticide. I did not want to create a happy home for spiders and ants. Both of these precautions seemed to work well.

When all was ready I added the filled and treated cans. They fit perfectly.

As I said, above, I actually put this system to the test once. And I was glad to have it at other times. Hopefully you will benefit too.

Another Word Of Warning!

Before we part, here are a few warnings and disclaimers. First, I do not warrant or guarantee anything - it's just an idea that worked for me. User beware! Make sure you check any applicable laws and regulations in your area. I did not and things worked well. Still, play it safe. And, speaking of safety, remember that gasoline is HIGHLY flammable, explosive even. And it is toxic. Use your head and take precautions. Keep it away from: the dwelling, kids, pets, and any source of flames, sparks, or heat.

Be safe but be prepared.

Perrin Lovett writes about freedom, firearms, and cigars (and everything else) at www.perrinlovett.me. He is none too fond of government meddling.