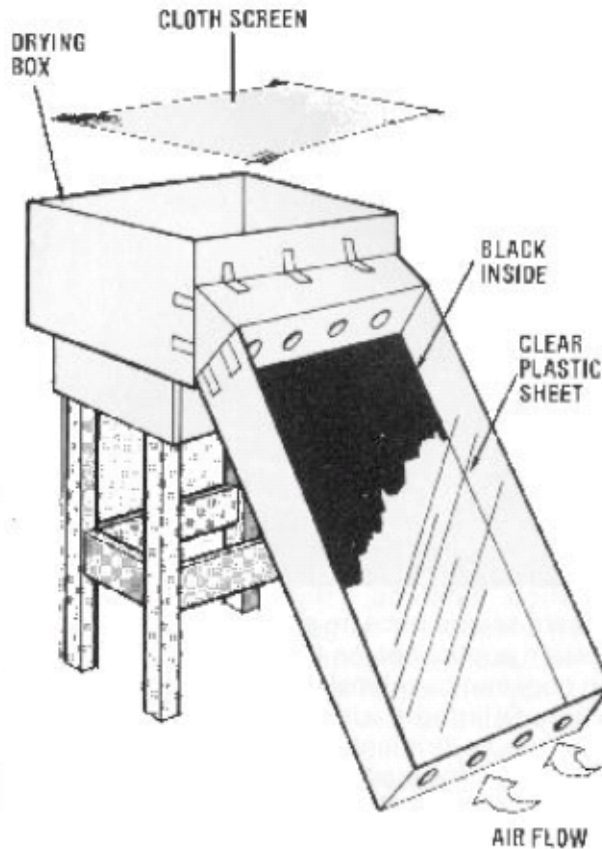




Solar Food Dehydrator



Materials: two cardboard boxes, some clear plastic wrap, and a little tape.

You can build a solar dehydrator almost for free. Once you set it on a stool or chair and face its solar collector towards the sun, you will have a functional food preservation machine for little work and even less money.

Use a long thin cardboard box for the collector and a taller, nearly square cardboard box for the drying box. Boxes can be made to size by cutting and taping together small cardboard pieces. Line the bottom of the collector box with a black plastic garbage bag or paint the bottom with black, water based poster paint (lamp black or soot mixed with a little vegetable oil would work as well). **If you use spray paint or other toxic paints, let the collector bake in the sun for a day or two before use.** Cover the top of the collector with clear plastic wrap or window glass, etc. Tape it together as shown.

To increase the efficiency, you may want to cover the sides and bottom of both boxes with fiberglass or styrofoam insulation.

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<http://www.thefarm.org/charities/i4at/surv/soldehyd.htm>