

Making hand washing devices from alloy cans.

“simplicity itself”



Peter Morgan



Introduction

Alloy cans that contain cokes, beers, and all manner of soft drinks are discarded in their millions daily. Most are 330mls in capacity, some smaller at 200mls.

These cans make excellent hand washing devices in combination with a vessel which can store water, like a bucket. By making 3 holes in the can with a nail and hammer and attaching a wire handle the can is turned into an almost zero cost hand washer. The bucket may cost a dollar or two.

Hand washing is one of the most important parts of the sanitary process, when it comes to personal hygiene. Every toilet should have access to a hand washing device of some sort.

Of course water must be available, and if scarce must be used sparingly. Soiled hands can carry much disease.

Hands are washed better if soap is available and the use of the alloy can hand washer comes in combination with soap, nearby as well as the source of water, which can be held in a bucket.

If soap is not available, wood ash can be used as a mild abrasive dust with alkaline properties. It works well as a hand cleanser.

This brief manual describes how to make the alloy can hand washer and put it to use.

It is simple, almost no-cost and works well.

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How to make the alloy can hand washer

At least two sizes are possible, 330ml and 200ml. The larger size is most common. You need a pair of scissors, a nail and small hammer, a pair of pliers and a short length of wire.

For the 330ml can



Drink the refreshment first. Then cut a hole in the top with a pair of scissors.



This leaves a hole in the top of the can. Turn the can over and punch a hole in the base of the can with a nail (about 3mm diameter) using a small hammer.



This leaves a hole through which water will pass later.



The use the nail to make 2 further holes just below the rim of the can and opposite each other. These are at right angles to the hole in the base.

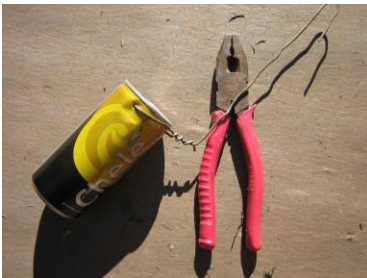
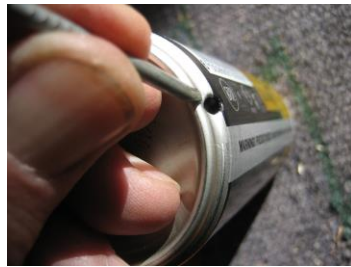
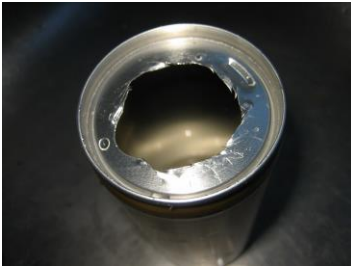


Take a length of stout wire (diameter about 1.5mm) and about 400mm long and pass it through the two holes near the rim of the can. Wrap the wire around the can and tighten with pliers as shown in the photo.



Make a bend in the wire for hanging in a suitable place. The hand washer can be hung from many places.

For the 200ml can



The same sequence for the 200ml can

Setting up the hand washer

This hand washer is used together with a bucket or other water container. The hand washer is dipped into the water and re-hung. At the point where the waste water strikes the ground, it is wise to place a small garden of plants to absorb the water. Also soap can be hung nearby.



The bucket full of water (and lid), the hand washer and hanging soap and also a small garden of *Aloe vera* to absorb waste water



Simple enough – but it works!

Using the hand washer

The hand washer is slung from a convenient place so the wash water can fall on a small area which may be planted with flowers or succulents. A bucket or some other vessel for holding water should be placed nearby. A bucket can be embedded in a ring of concrete to keep it in position. The hand washer is dipped into the water, hung up and then the hands are washed. Even half a can full of water may be sufficient to wash the hands. Clean hands help personal health.



The hand washer at home