

TIPS FOR LITTLE FREE LIBRARY BUILDERS

All across the country we are seeing almost an infinite variety of LFL, especially when it comes to their sizes, shapes and themes. We encourage you to vary the dimensions and materials as you see fit. But here are some good principles:

- Use green building techniques whenever possible
- Screws work better than nails
- Build the Library to last- most will be outside by a sidewalk, so they will need to be weather resistant. Shelves should be strong and the box water-tight
- Make it safe. Use Plexiglas instead of glass. Be sure screw ends are not pointing through the wood. If you are recycling wood, make sure it doesn't have lead paint on it!
- Be sure signs on your library are easy to read from 5-10 feet away
- Register each Library so it's in the global network map and benefits from all the other promotional and technical support

KEEPING IT TOGETHER

Plywood is the typical LFL building material. But a 4' x 8' sheet of 5/8" plywood can be manipulated best when cut into pieces of 15 7/8" long x 23 7/8". Exterior glue and exterior screws keep the panels sturdy. It is easiest to be sure your box is perfectly aligned by making a square cube. Next, paint the entire inside and outside with exterior paint- pay extra attention to exposed ends and joints because they are vulnerable to water damage. You may want to put a riff about the door to catch and rain and keep it from dripping inside the door.

ARTISTIC AND ARCHITECTURAL TOUCHES

- A single door is stronger, more durable and leaks less than a double door
- Use an exterior hinge or paint an interior hinge with Rustoleum
- Sometimes the best creativity is reflected in the handle. It can be an antique knob, spindle chair back, thimble, tinker toy or anything else there is easy to use and safe
- No matter your paint design, use several coats of exterior clear coat before and after. Some artistic paints are not as durable. Interior paints do not hold up: so be careful and protect it with exterior clear coat.
- The best mounting post consists of a 2" x 6" piece of wood as wide as the library to use as a platform.
- Dig a hole about 24" to 28" deep to install the post, making sure to use a level and tap the dirt hard with the handle of the shovel. Then screw the library on to the sturdy post platform with several screws.



OUR GOALS

By 2024, United Way of Pierce County will, in collaboration with community partners, help break the cycle of poverty by removing barriers and focusing on long-term solutions.

>>We want to ensure a **strong start for kids** by increasing the number of children who are ready for kindergarten from 44 percent to 90 percent.

>>We want to ensure **early grade success** by increasing the number of children reading at grade level by the end of third grade from 67 percent to 90.

>>We want to build **strong families** by assisting 4,000 low-income families with children with financial stability.

>>We want to meet the **basic needs of families and individuals** through investments in food, housing and other essentials.