



Build an Epic DIY Potato Cannon

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Looking for an awesome STEM project that involves launching vegetables hundreds of feet through the air? Building a potato cannon fits the bill. It only takes about two hours and provides days of fun.

Shopping List

- [4" pvc pipe for the chamber](#) | Look for a 2ft section (\$16) or buy a full 8ft pipe and cut down.
- [2" pvc pipe for the barrel](#) | 8ft or 10ft will do (\$14)
- [4" to 2" reducer coupling](#) | (\$14)
- [4" female cleanout adapter](#) with [plug](#) | (\$8 + \$4)
- [BBQ igniter](#) | (\$9)
- [PVC primer and glue](#) | (\$10)
- [Spray paint of choice](#) (optional) | (\$3)
- [Epoxy](#) | (\$8)

Launch Supplies

- [Starter fluid](#) | (\$5)
- [Potatoes 5lbs](#) | (\$3)
- Safety glasses
- Broomstick (or other ramrod)

Tools Needed

- Hacksaw or tool to cut PVC
- Drill with bits
- Measuring tape
- Sandpaper

Build Steps

Step 1: Cut Your Pieces

- Barrel: Take your 2" PVC pipe and cut a 4.5ft (56in) barrel
- Chamber: Cut your 4" PVC to create an 1.5ft (18in) chamber

Step 2: Assemble The Chamber

- Prime and glue the 4" to 2" reducer coupling onto one end of your chamber.
- Then prime and glue the 4" female cleanout adapter with plug onto the other end of the chamber.

Steps 3-4: Attach the Barrel And Paint

- Prime and glue the barrel into the reducer coupling. Make sure it's seated fully. Let the whole assembly dry for at least 2 hours. If you're going to paint, now is a good time.
- (Optional) Spray paint your cannon in whatever colors you would like.

Steps 5-6: Install Igniter and depth stop

- Drill a hole in the chamber near the closed end. Insert your igniter and use epoxy.
- Drill a pilot hole and drive a screw into the barrel about 6-8 inches from where it is glued to the chamber. This keeps potatoes from sliding too far when you ram them in.

Check out the full guide →

Watch a step-by-step video tutorial with additional tips and tricks for launching. Scan the QR code or visit: mightythings.org/learn/how-to-build-potato-cannon

