

DIY Coconut Hut or Water Bowl

The coconut hut plays a critical role in the reproduction of poison dart frogs by providing a place for shelter, security, and an egg laying site. As an artistic addition to any terrarium, a coconut hut can also be turned upside down to be used as a naturalistic water dish. By following these steps, hobbyists will be able to make their own coconut huts. Please adhere to all safety instructions on power tools that may be used and wear safety glasses when creating a coconut hut.

Materials:

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|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| coconut | hole saw 1.5"-2" |
| drill | large spoon or screw driver |
| large pot for boiling | file or sandpaper |
| saw (hand or table) | table vice (optional) |
| $\frac{3}{4}$ " drill bit | safety glasses |

Step 1: Obtain a coconut from a local grocer. Create 1-2 holes in the coconut in order to drain the milk. Using the $\frac{3}{4}$ " drill bit, drill two holes, one at each end of the coconut. Instead of a drill, a screwdriver can be used to pierce the coconut to create the holes. If creating a water bowl, drill the holes in the center of the coconut rather than the two ends. After the holes are made, allow the coconut milk to drain out.



Step 2: If creating a water dish, skip this step. To create a hut, use the hole saw to drill a hole in the center of the coconut. To hold the coconut in place, hobbyists can put the coconut between their feet, or use a table vice. If a hole saw is not available, a hobbyist may skip this step for the time being and can instead cut an upside down "V" into the cleaned coconut shell that remains after Step 4.



Step 3: Using a hand or table saw carefully cut the coconut in half. If creating a hut instead of a water dish, be sure to cut the coconut in half through the center of the hole that was created using the hole saw. If using a table saw, the blade only needs to be raised about an inch.



Step 4: After the coconut is cut into two halves, rinse both halves in water to remove excess debris. Next, boil the coconut halves for 10-15 minutes to loosen the meat of the coconut. Remove the halves from the boiling water and use a screw driver to pry around the edge of the coconut and the shell. Be sure to pry completely around the coconut. Once finished, carefully pry the coconut meat from the shell using a large spoon or screw driver. If a hobbyist is lucky, the entire contents will come out all at once.

Step 5: Inspect around the coconut shell that remains and look for sharp edges. Sand or file down these areas. Once finished, install in the terrarium.

