



## Building an Ice Fishing Sled

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Many ice fishermen like to use a sled to carry their equipment to and from their favorite fishing spots. Any old sled or toboggan can be used by just putting a box on it to hold the equipment they need to carry along, but a customized sled built for the purpose can be much more useful and satisfying.

Start your project by determining the size limits of your usual fishing vehicle. There is no sense in building a sled that you cannot get into your car, so measure carefully to determine the outside dimensions for the sled. Next, look at your gear; and determine the best layout for your purposes. The drawing included with this activity sheet will offer some suggestions on a possible layout. It offers a seat with secure storage for small items, and an open box for tip-ups, jigging rods or chugging sticks, a bait bucket and a small ice chest.

The instructions here are designed around some simple power tools and a basic knowledge of woodworking. If the participants in your program are not well prepared to use these tools, the parts can be pre-cut, allowing them to assemble the sleds. This construction assumes use of 5/8 inch exterior grade plywood, but heavier material could be used if desired. The runners are made of hardwood or pine with either plastic or metal carpet edging to preserve the edges. The sled is assembled with screws and waterproof glue.

For a sled that meets the specifications shown in the drawing, the following is a bill of materials.

Runners	- 2 -	waterproof glue
Bottom	- 1 -	carpet edging
Sides	- 2 -	
End pieces	- 2 -	
Center supports	- 2 -	
Center piece	- 1 -	

Seat	- 1 -
Box supports	- 3 -
Diagonal brace	- 1 -

This needs to be a relatively simple ice fishing sled that can serve as a carrying device, storage device, wind break and seat - I think that Outdoor Life or Field and Stream had one in it several years ago.

(Insert drawing of sled)