

How to Make a Doll House

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Co-authored by **wikiHow Staff** and **57 contributors**

Last Updated: January 14, 2021

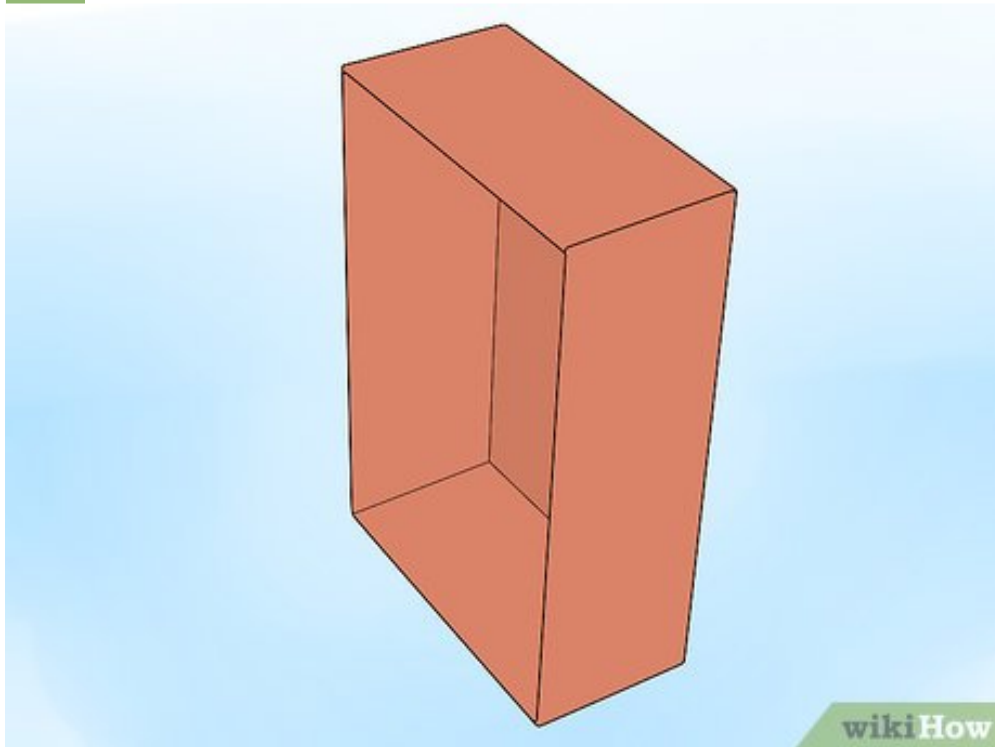
There's something special about miniature versions of life-sized buildings. Dollhouses have the power to light up the imaginations of both children and adults alike. All you need to make this realistic dollhouse is a box and basic craft supplies. Decorate the dollhouse with pretty colours and then fill it with tiny furniture. Have fun creating your very own dollhouse!

Things You'll Need

- ☐ Box
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ Ruler
- ☐ Sticky tape
- ☐ Hot glue gun
- ☐ Pen

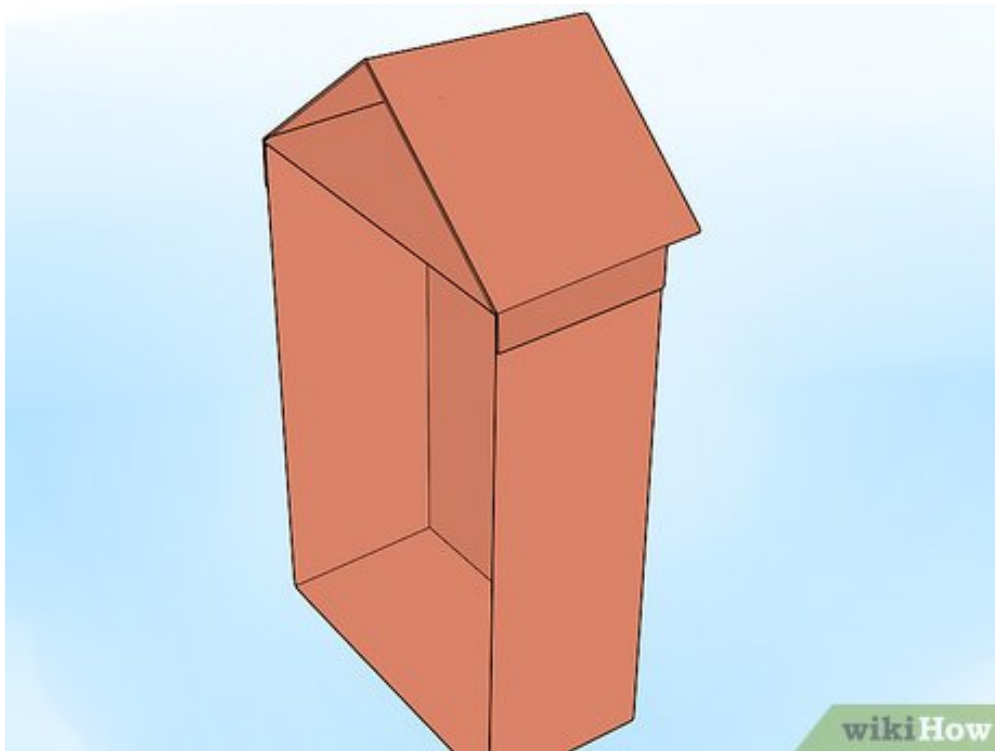
Part 1

Part 1 of 2: Creating the Main Structure



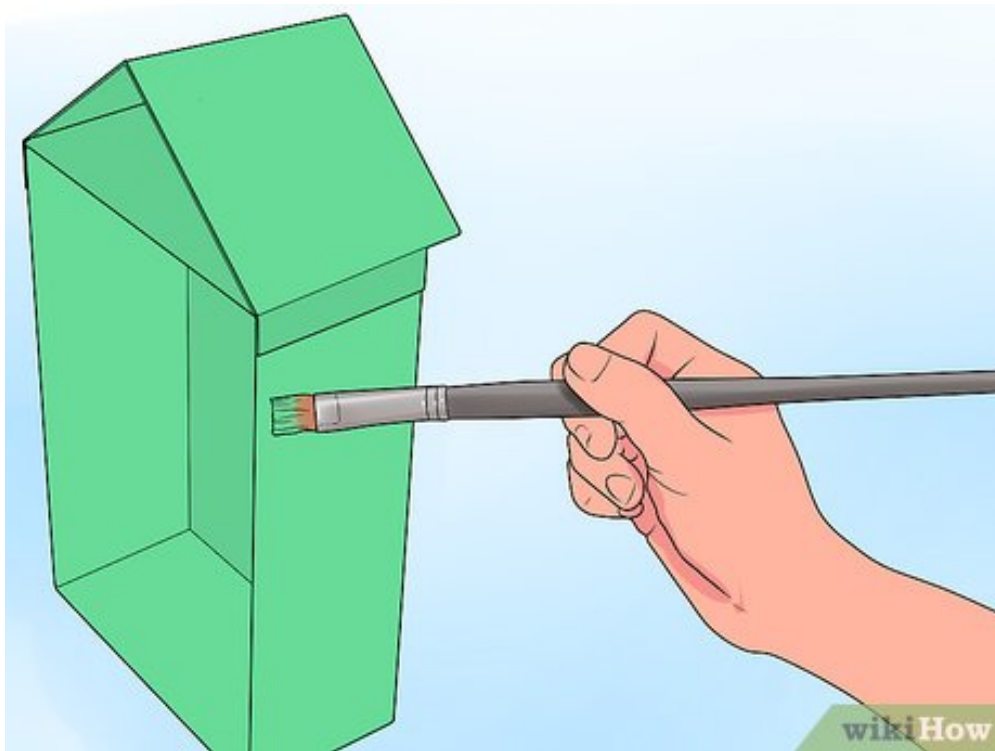
1 Stand a box up lengthways. Any regular box will work for this activity. Opt for a big box for a large dollhouse or use a small box if you want a smaller project. Stand the box up on one of the narrow ends. If it has a lid, keep it to use later.^[1]

- Shoeboxes work really well for this activity.
- Opt for a wooden crate if you want to make a wooden dollhouse.



2 Create an A-frame roof for your dollhouse. Measure the depth of the box and then measure that length widthways on your lid and make a mark. Draw a line lengthways and cut down the line with scissors. Bend the trimmed lid in half widthways to create an A-frame roof. Then, attach 2.5 cm (2.0 in) pieces of sticky tape to the short edges of the roof and stick it to the top of your dollhouse.^[2]

- If you don't have a lid, use a scrap piece of cardboard instead.
- If you are making a wooden dollhouse and want a roof, make an A-frame style roof out of pieces of wood.
- If you have made a wooden roof, secure it in place with super glue.



3 Decorate the outside of the dollhouse with tissue paper or paint it. This is a great chance for you to personalise your dollhouse and make it unique! Cut out pieces of tissue paper and stick them onto the dollhouse to cover the box. Alternatively, paint the box or cover it with stickers, sequins, or glitter.^[3]

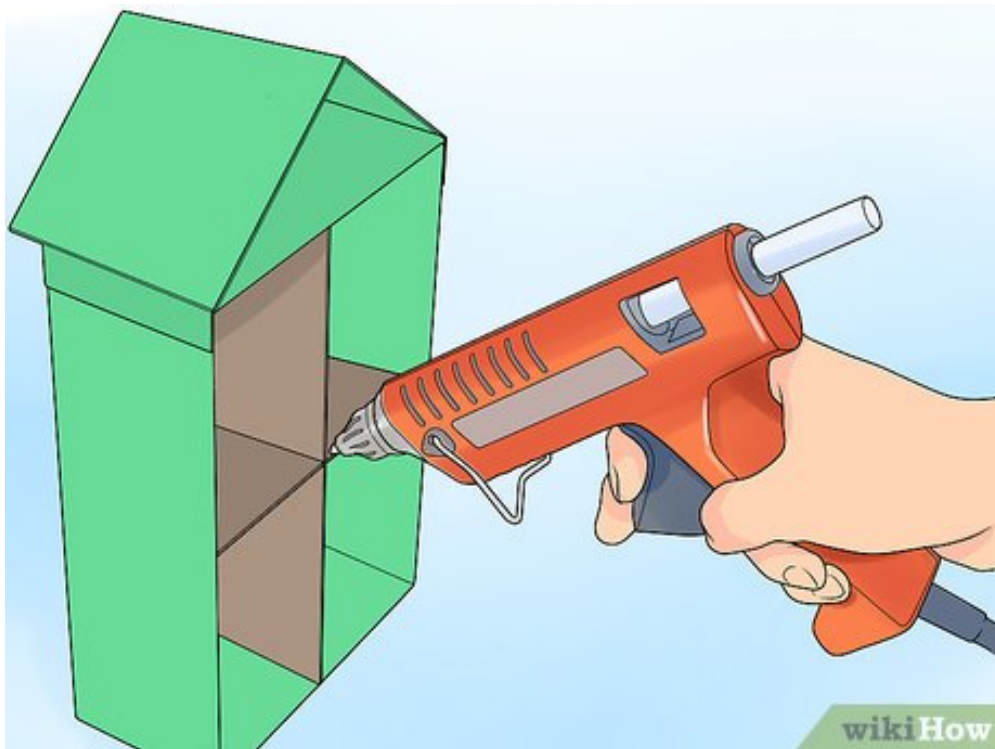
- To make the dollhouse look really realistic, draw bricks on it or cover it with paper that has a brick pattern.

Part 2 of 2: Making Extra Rooms, a Door, and Windows



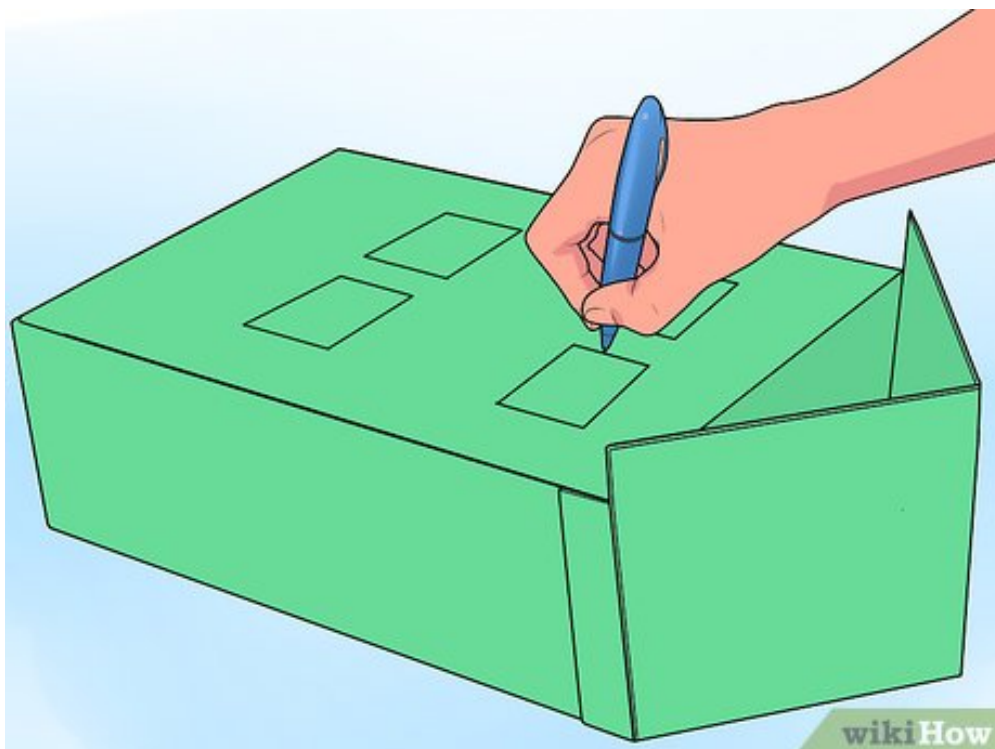
1 Add vertical pieces of cardboard or wood to create internal walls. Trim a piece of cardboard or wood to the height of the first story. Position it in place and then attach it in place with hot glue. Repeat this step on the second story to create extra rooms or leave it as an open loft.^[4]

- If you don't have hot glue, use super glue.
- Leave the glue to dry for about 1 hour.



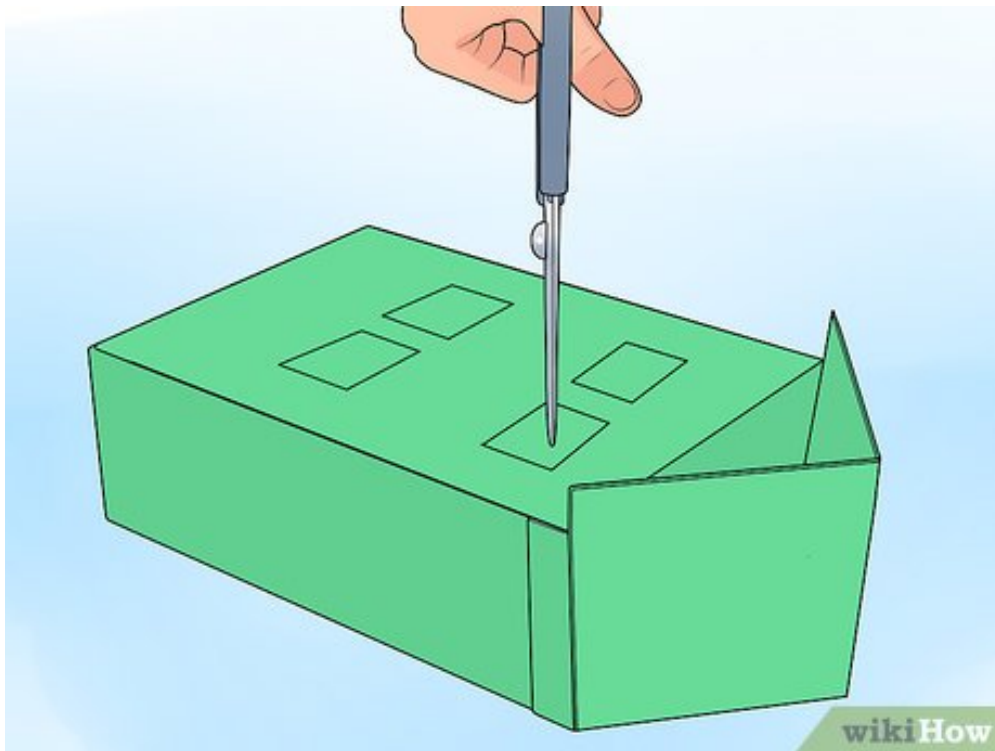
2 Trim cardboard or wood to create a second story. Place your dollhouse on top of a piece of cardboard or wood, draw around the base to create a rectangle outline, and then cut out the rectangle. Place hot glue or super glue on the edges of the rectangle and slide it horizontally into the dollhouse and position it halfway up the box to create a second story.^[5]

- If you don't want a second story, simply skip this step.



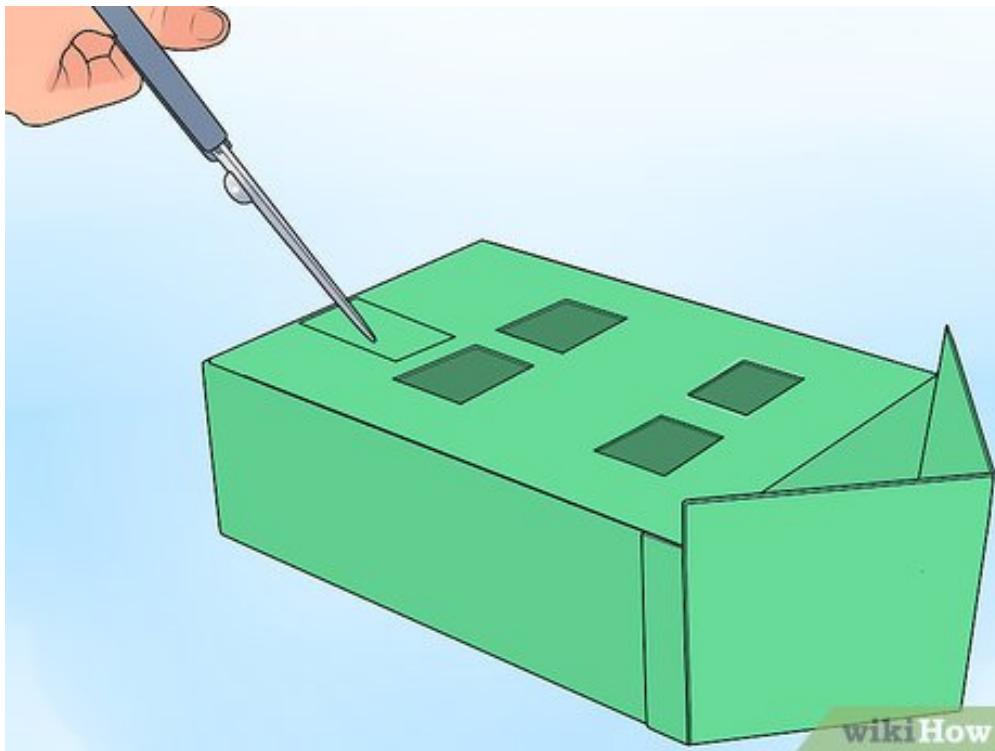
3 Draw the doors and windows onto the back of the dollhouse. Turn the dollhouse around so that the flat back of the box is facing you. Then, use a pen to draw a door and as many windows as you like. Consider placing at least 1 window in each room to make the house look realistic.^[6]

- Leave at least a 2 cm (0.79 in) gap between each window to keep the structural integrity of the dollhouse intact.



4 Use scissors or a **jigsaw to cut out the windows.** Poke the tip of the scissors or the blade into the middle of the window to make a hole. Then, use this hole to help you cut around the outline of your windows.^[7]

- Try to cut as close to the outline of the window as possible so that you can't see the pen marks.
- If you don't have a jigsaw, consider hiring one from a hardware store.^[8]



5 Cut out the door to create an entrance to the dollhouse. If you have made a cardboard dollhouse, cut the top and 1 side of the door so that you can bend it open. Use scissors to cut along the top edge of the door. Then, cut along 1 of the long edges of the door. Fold the door back along the other edge so that it opens and closes like a regular door.^[9]

- If you have a wooden dollhouse, cut out the entire door with a jigsaw.
- If you find it easier, use a craft knife to make the cuts on the cardboard instead.



Community Q&A

Question

Can I make this with cardboard?



Community Answer

Yes. It may not be as sturdy, but it would work.

Helpful 51 Not Helpful 7

Question

Can I make a doll house using a big box?



LavaWaffles
Community Answer

Yes. If the box comes with flaps on the top, cut them off and use glue to stick them in place for floors. Use extra bits of cardboard to make furniture.

Helpful 49 Not Helpful 13

Question

Can I stick two shoe boxes together to make a two story doll house?



Community Answer

Yes, you can. Place your shoeboxes side to side so they open out to you. Tape or glue them together then decorate the inside and outside.

Helpful 65 Not Helpful 15

Question

How can I make a baby doll bed?



Community Answer

Use a small pillow. Get a piece of cloth (already decorated) and wrap it around to the bottom; flip it around and then glue the remaining pieces to the other side. For a pillow, you can use small pencil pouch, or a big eraser, and glue another piece of decorated cloth to it before gluing the remaining pieces to the back of that. Use another cloth for the blanket.

Helpful 63 Not Helpful 18

Question

How can I make one with materials from around my house?



LavaWaffles
Community Answer

You could use old, unneeded clothes for rugs, blankets, etc. Paper towel rolls could be painted gray and used as trash cans. You could even use small stuffed animals as bigger stuffed animals for the dolls!

Helpful 41 Not Helpful 15

Question

How can I make doll clothes for an American Girl without a sewing machine?



Community Answer

Use a needle and thread, and a big piece of cloth. Wrap the cloth around the doll and sew it up.

Helpful 43 Not Helpful 17

Question

How do I create clothes without a sewing machine?



Community Answer

Use a hot glue gun or hand sew the fabric together.

Helpful 40 Not Helpful 18

Question

But what if I DON'T have a doll?



Emma Hall1
Community Answer

Buy a doll from a toy store or try making your own! Be creative and use your imagination.

Helpful 20 Not Helpful 9

Question

I am making rooms on shelves of a cupboard I have. The top shelf is my dining and kitchen area. The next shelf under that will be a bedroom and bathroom. I need to know how to make a wall between.



Emma Hall1
Community Answer

Add vertical pieces of cardboard to create internal walls. Trim a piece of cardboard to the height of the first story. Position it in place and then attach it in place with hot glue.

Helpful 12 Not Helpful 5

Question

How do I make it portable and safe, because an egg will be the doll? I have a school project for that!



Emma Hall1
Community Answer

Use a small shoe box to make the dollhouse. That way it will be easy to transport.

Helpful 11 Not Helpful 6



Tips

- Create multiple dollhouses to create a mini town.
- Add furniture to make your dollhouse look lived-in and more realistic. Purchase dollhouse furniture from a toy store or online.

References

1. ↑ <https://youtu.be/hQI9J0v-Szc?t=19>
2. ↑ <https://youtu.be/hQI9J0v-Szc?t=26>
3. ↑ <https://youtu.be/4ViMZNV2wx0?t=31>
4. ↑ <https://youtu.be/hQI9J0v-Szc?t=189>
5. ↑ <https://youtu.be/hQI9J0v-Szc?t=90>
6. ↑ <https://youtu.be/4bfoplbbacu?t=192>
7. ↑ <https://youtu.be/4bfoplbbacu?t=192>
8. ↑ https://youtu.be/f_WK69M0iPQ?t=17
9. ↑ <https://youtu.be/4bfoplbbacu?t=192>

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Co-authors: **57**

Updated: **January 14, 2021**

Views: **313,837**

Categories: **Hobbies and Crafts**

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