

Instructions for Making an Insect Killing Jar

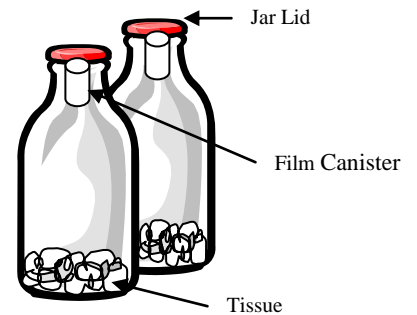
Materials Needed:

Small, Medium, or Large Jar *with* tight fitting lid
35 mm film canister *with* lid (or something similar)
2-3 cotton balls
Glue
1 Paper Fastener
1 or 2 Tissues
Isopropyl alcohol or Acetate (nail polish remover)
Metal punch (can use scissors, ice pick, nail, etc.)



1. Start by punching 5-7 holes in the lid of the film canister. These should be decent size holes and not just pin pricks.

2. Punch 1 hole in the center of the bottom of the film canister. Then punch a hole in the center of the lid of the jar. Put the paper fastener through the bottom of the film canister so the head of the fastener is on the inside of the canister. Place glue on the bottom of the film canister. With the canister upside down, push fastener ends through the inside of the jar lid. *The film canister should hang upside down in jar when assembled correctly.*

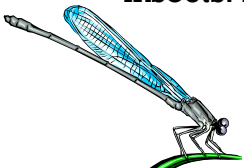


3. Wait for 12 – 24 hours for glue to dry before using.

4. Place 1-2 tissues in the bottom of the jar. The tissue absorbs any moisture excreted from the insects, any condensation, and also excess killing fluid. The tissues also act as a barrier between multiple insects killed at one time. Tissues will need to be changed regularly when soiled.

5. Place 2-3 cotton balls in the film canister. It should be full but not stuffed.

6. Add alcohol or acetate to the cotton balls so they are wet but not dripping. Put lid on the canister and immediately put the lid on the killing jar. Wait at least 30 minutes for jar to “prime” (for the vapors to go throughout the jar) before attempting to kill insects. Placing jar in the sun will help volatize the vapors.



Helpful Hints for Successful Use of Your Killing Jar

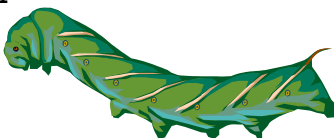


1. Add alcohol to your killing jar at least 15 minutes (slightly longer for larger jars) before planned use. Both the alcohol and acetate need to vaporize and saturate the jar space.

2. New killing agents will need to be added as the chemicals evaporate. The vapors will escape the jar between uses and it will not be effective. This will happen if your jar sits for longer than 1 day, or is used frequently in one session. You'll know it is time to

add new chemicals when the insects take longer to be overcome. Remember, it does take longer for larger insects to die than a smaller one, even when the jar is at full strength.

3. Once the killing agent has been added to the canister, keep the lid of the killing jar screwed on securely except when adding insects. It is the fumes of the chemical that kill the insects and the more the jar is opened, the less effective the chemical.
4. You may want to have several jars of different sizes if you are planning on doing a lot of collecting in a short amount of time. If there are several insects in a jar, adding more will decrease the effectiveness of the killing agent. Also, insects that are collected first can be destroyed by struggling insects added later.
5. You DO NOT want to collect soft-bodied insects in a killing jar. This would include caterpillars, aphids, scale, or any nymphal, larval, or pupal stages of insects. These should be preserved in liquid alcohol.



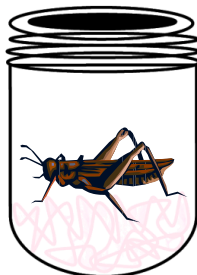
Here are examples of jars and types of insects that might go in the jars.

Small: baby food jar



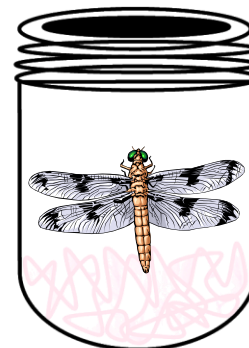
small beetles, flies,
small butterflies,
ants, leafhoppers

Medium – peanut butter
or jam jars



Bees, grasshoppers,
crickets, beetles,
cicada, butterflies

Large – Mayonnaise jar



large butterflies & moths,
walking sticks, dragonflies,
damselflies, dobsonflies



Developed by Elizabeth M. S. Hill, Faculty Extension Asst., 4-H Youth Development; 1993, Revised – 11/18/09

