

Raccoon-Proof Feral Cat Feeder



Raccoons can climb but not jump up very well. The feeder is on a 40" tall 4x4 post and has a sheet metal skirt mounted on the base of the feeder, which prevents raccoons from climbing up the pole to get inside. Most cats can jump up into the feeder, but there is also a low platform to assist those who need help. There are access openings on two sides and two solid walls to protect the food from the elements.

This feeder is 24" square and 16" tall in order to make the most efficient use of pieces of plywood, and was painted brown to be inconspicuous in public areas. A metal bracket was used to mount the feeder to the top of the post. The bracket bolts to the floor of the feeder using carriage bolts and fastens with lag screws to the top of the post. Rather than digging a hole and cementing the post into the ground, we used a metal base that has a two foot spike welded to a square bracket that clamps to the bottom of the 4x4 post. This bracket can be pounded into the ground with a sledgehammer and is fairly solid, but can be removed later (more easily than cement) should the feeder need to be moved.

The jumping platform is 14" tall and can be almost any size, or you can use a small cat shelter or other object that you already have. You may need to experiment with the distance it is placed from the feeder to get it close enough for the cats but far enough away that raccoons can't use it to get up into the feeder. We put water bowls under the jumping platform and food bowls inside the feeder.

The floor is $\frac{3}{4}$ " plywood; roof & sides are $\frac{1}{4}$ " plywood. Interior framing is 1"x1" cut down from 2x4's, also used on the bottom edge of the floor for stability and to attach the sides and metal flashing. Ours is assembled with wood screws to be solid and durable.



The black metal post mounting bracket and green spike for the base of the post each cost about \$15 at Home Depot. Thin 10" wide metal flashing (usually found only in silver but Lowe's had rolls of brown) is easily bent at the corners and stapled onto the bottom edge of the feeder.



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