

Bored Bunny Busters: DIY Enrichment
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DIY Materials

- *Kraft packing paper
- *Brown, non-glossy cardboard boxes
- *Toilet paper or paper towel rolls
- *Rolled oats/oatmeal containers (with wrapping removed)
- *Phone books
- *Newspaper
- *Brown paper bags

DIY Toys\Toy Parts

- *Untreated sisal rope
- *Willow sticks, balls, barbells
- *Plastic baby keys
- *Ware Plastic "Fun Tunnel" (30" long x 8")
- *Plastic slinky
- *Plastic stacking cups
- *Plastic ball with bell (5-6 inches)

Toy Parts for Purchase

- *Seagrass
- *Willow
- *Peeled vine
- *Yucca
- *Palm Leaf
- *Apple twigs
- *Pine blocks or shapes
- *Balsa blocks or shapes
- *Paper boxes or shapes
- *Untreated sisal rope (brand: T.W. Evans)
- *Seagrass rope

Suggested Online Stores for DIY Toy Parts

<https://www.mysafebirdstore.com>

<https://abirdtoy.com>

<https://www.cabirdnerds.com>

<https://www.noahsarkandnovelty.com>

Suggested Online Stores for Premade Toys

<https://triangle-rabbits.square.site>

<https://store.binkybunny.com>

<https://www.etsy.com/shop/Fun4Bunnies>

<https://www.etsy.com/shop/TheWellKeptRabbit>

Treat/Food Puzzles

Toilet Paper Tuck

1. Gently fold the roll in half and make a small cut; this is where treats/pellets will fall out.
2. On one end of the roll, fold one edge in half, making a crescent-like shape, and fold the other edge over the first side.
3. Insert pellets or treats that are small enough to fit through the hole.
4. Fold the edges on the other side of the roll as done in step 2.

Salad Slinky

1. Using a plastic slinky, wrap one end around your bunny's cage or fence.
2. Weave your bunny's favorite veggies and herbs around the slinky so that s/he can easily grab it.
3. This should be supervised, so remove/clean the slinky once your bunny has eaten all greens.

Veggie Clothesline

1. Tie a several-foot piece of sisal rope from one end of your bunny's cage or fence to the other, making sure to put it slightly higher than your bunny's height so that s/he must reach for it.
2. Using clothespins, lightly pin several different types of veggies to the clothesline, noting that your bunny should easily be able to pull the veggie out of the clothespin.
3. This should be supervised, so remove the clothesline/clothespins once your bunny has eaten all greens.

Box 'O' Goodies

1. Take a small, brown cardboard box and remove any excess tape/labels, etc. Leave the bottom taped, or fold over the sides so that they close.
2. Punch holes on all four sides of the box but not the top and bottom. For beginner bunnies, you may want to punch multiple holes on each side.
3. Insert treats or pellets that are small enough to fall through the holes; for an added challenge, add packing paper/newspaper.
4. Fold over the sides on the top of the box so that they close.

Foraging Toys

Digging Box

1. Take a large, cardboard box and cut two holes: one on two sides of the box. Leave a small lip (1-2 inches) on the bottom of the box.
2. Take handfuls of newspaper and/or brown packaging paper and ball them up, filling the box with paper.
3. Insert bunny.

Phonebook Puzzle

1. Take your favorite phone book and lay it on the ground.
2. Tuck treats/toys between the pages, noting that some should be visible/smellable to your bunny.
3. Flip the pages to encourage your bunny to do the same.

Lunch Bag Boredom Buster

1. Take a small lunch bag and place a few small holes in the side by folding it in half. (If you have craft hole punches, you can punch fun designs!)
2. Stuff the lunch bag with your bunny's favorites: hay, dried herbs, veggies, pellets, treats, etc.
3. Fold over the top half of the lunch bag several times to challenge your bunny to open it.

Note: this can also be done with a rolled oats/oatmeal container as long as your bunny is supervised; you wouldn't want it to get stuck on his/her head!

Paper Towel Parade

1. Removing any excess paper towel remaining, cut your paper towel roll into three parts.
2. Stuff each part with your bunny's favorite hay; bonus points for mixing hay types.
3. Using willow or apple sticks, tuck the sticks into the paper towel roll parts so that they are connected.
4. Tuck a pellet or treat into one or more of the paper parts.

*Note: willow sticks can be found outdoors and are safe as long as untreated/unsprayed with pesticides, but many trees are harmful to rabbits, so please be sure that it's willow. Alternatively, they can also be purchased at Petco, PetSmart, Phydeaux, or AniMall.

Surprise Stacking Cups

1. Using a set of plastic stacking cups, stack them from largest to smallest, using only a few at about bunny-nose height to start.
2. Place a few pellets or treats in the layers of stacking cups; to get your bunny interested, you may need to put a treat on the top stacking cup, as well.
3. As your bunny learns this game, add additional stacking cups and randomize where you place the treats.

Note: when you stack the cups high, many bunnies find it fun to simply knock them down, so treats may not be needed.

Resistance Toys

Kraft Paper Pull

1. Take a piece of kraft packing paper (1 – 2 feet) and weave it between the bars of your bunny's cage or fence.
2. Leave the edges of the packing paper poking out so that your bunny can pull both, noting not to leave any large loops with the paper on which your bunny's head/paw could get stuck.

Note: kraft paper makes a wonderful chew toy that can be stuffed in boxes, other toys, etc.

Paper Towel Slinky

1. Remove all excess paper from the paper towel roll.
2. Starting from the top, take the corner of the roll's seam and pull down.
3. Continue to separate the roll by the seam until it is completely separated.
4. Weave a few inches of the roll on your bunny's cage or fence; it will have a bouncing motion like a slinky that can be chewed.

Phone Book Tug of War

1. Taking your favorite phone book, remove the front and back covers, any glossy pages, and any magnets/plastics from inside the pages.
2. Tuck one end of the phone book under your bunny's fence, leaving it open in the middle so that they bunny can rip out pages from the seam.

OR

3. Drape your phone book over the door of your bunny's fence and close the door; s/he can dig/pull at it when playtime is over and boredom sets in.

*Note: phone books make an excellent shredding toy but are best used with litter-box-trained rabbits.

Tied Toss Toy

1. Using a toss toy that you've either purchased or made for your bunny (this could include a toilet paper roll stuffed with hay), tie a small piece of sisal rope to the top or middle with a double knot, leaving about 6 inches of extra sisal rope.
 2. Tie the toy to your bunny's cage or fence at slightly above eye level. I've found that putting them above the litter box is especially interesting to them.
- Note: pine wood pieces are safe for bunnies/small animals since they are kiln-dried, so they are safe for small animals. However, shaved pine bedding is bad because of the oils produced by shaving).

Exercise

Bunny Bowling

1. Collect 6 – 8 empty rolls: using either toilet paper or paper towel rolls, remove any excess paper.
2. Set them up in a V formation as you would bowling pins; you can space them a few inches apart or more (depending on your bunny's size).
3. Encourage your bunny to hop through the “bowling pins”, knocking them down. Treats may be tucked into the pins for more enrichment.

Cardboard Maze/Tunnel

1. Collect several cardboard boxes, varying in sizes and cut 2-3 holes in each one large enough for your bunny to hop through.
2. Line up the holes so that the boxes are connected, using tape to affix them together if desired.
3. Stuff some packing paper or newspaper in the boxes to add an additional challenge.
4. You can use these mazes/tunnels in conjunction with other hiding boxes, beds, and large toys in your bunny's area
5. Switch up your mazes/tunnels every so often so that your bunny has a new challenge.

Obstacle/Agility Course

1. There are a lot of wonderful obstacle and agility course setups online, some of which you can buy, and some are DIY.
2. To create a jump, you can use a toilet paper roll placed on two short boxes, increasing the height as needed.
3. Plastic tunnels make a fun obstacle course, and I like to connect each end to a cardboard box.
4. Paper bags from the grocery store (with handles removed) can also be another fun tunnel: simply cut open the bottom so that your bunny has an exit, and prop the paper bag open with a small box or toy.
5. Incorporate the bunny bowling and/or cardboard maze/tunnel toys in the instructions above to make an even larger course where your bunny can jump on top of the boxes, knock down the “bowling pins”, etc.

*Pinterest has a wealth of additional resources for DIY toys, enrichment, and agility course setup. Check out our [Pinterest page!](#)