

# Creative Crate Play

## The many uses for the humble storage crate



Storage crates or milk crates can be used in so many ways. Children will explore their world by stacking, building, filling, emptying, and pretending, using crates. We recommend that you only use solid, sturdy crates since children will want to use them to stack and stand on and folding or lightweight crates could collapse.



Crates can be lined and filled with a variety of materials for sensory play. Line a crate with a garbage bag and fill with water for water play. Another crate can be lined with an old sheet then filled with sand, soil or pea gravel. The fabric allows water to drain through when it rains.

Children can build forts with storage crates, all they need is a few crates, old sheets, blankets or some gardening burlap along with some clothes pegs to secure their structure. The more crates the bigger the fort and more room for friends. Crates provide a versatile surface for decorating and storage so children can make their fort a safe personal space.



Create an outdoor kitchen suitable for gourmet mud pies and dandelion salads. Include a piece of plywood or corrugated plastic for the top and secure with zip ties. Your kitchen can be built lower for young children and higher for older children. Thrift store or dollar store cooking equipment will complete your kitchen.

Storage or milk crates can be purchased at most hardware stores like Canadian Tire, Home Depot and Home Hardware for under \$10.00 each.