



MOUNTAIN HOME LIONS CLUB

**RECYCLE  
REGATTA**

**JUG BOAT RACE**



# HOW TO BUILD A MILK JUG BOAT



**FIRST: GATHER...** Start collecting milk, water, and tea jugs (with screw-on lids) right away. Ask your family, neighbors and friends. Shortly after January 1, you'll be able to grab some jugs at donation/collection bins around MOUNTAIN HOME listed below:

**HARPS GROCERIES - 924 Highway 62 East  
2089 Highway 62 West**

**BAXTER RECYCLING CENTER - 1306 Rossi Road**

While you gather jugs, decide what to build. Ask yourself these questions:

- How many people will be on your boat?
- What will they use to paddle?
- How will you bring your boat to the race: all together, or in a few smaller sections?

**SECOND: BUILD...** Build container modules by connecting your jugs into several modules with duct tape, builders' glue, or clear mailing tape. Make sure all screw-top lids are tightly closed. Test each module in a bathtub or pool to make sure the containers don't leak.

Make your frame by using wooden boards such as two-by-fours, or aluminum or plastic. Be creative! Use plastic wrap, wood screws, glue, tape, or other construction materials (except nails) for fastening. Make sure all parts are securely fastened.

One way to make a wood frame: Get three boards that are 8 feet long. (Most people use "two-by-four" size.)

Cut one board into four equal parts. Use these as cross-pieces to connect the other two boards. The frame will look like a ladder. A power screwdriver and a glue gun will make building easier.

**THIRD: TEST...** If possible, take your boat to a place with still, calm water — a pool or pond, not a creek or river. You can even come to the race location at Buzzard Roost Boat Dock.

**FOURTH: DECORATE...** Above your boat's waterline, you can decorate however you choose. Add decorations and your boat's name to wow the crowd. Jugs may be flattened to create decorations. But keep in mind:

- Leave enough room to paddle hard in the races.
- On race day, you'll need to check-in to get your race numbers to attach to the front and side of your boat.

Sketch what you want to build. Think about how long and how wide it will be. List the supplies you'll need to complete the boat like:

- Frame pieces / fasteners (no nails)
- Paddle(s)
- Recyclable decorations
- Life jacket(s)/PFD(s)

Once you know who will be on your boat, you can register for the race. Online registration opens February 1, 2026. Visit **MountainHomeLions.org** at that time to enter. It's limited to **50** boats so register early!

Will it float? How many jugs will you need to equal the weight of your boat and its rider(s) PLUS some extra to make sure your boat always stays above the water line?

Here's how much weight each container size can float:

- A gallon jug floats 8 pounds.
- A half-gallon jug floats 4 pounds.
- A quart jug floats 2 pounds.
- A pint jug floats 1 pound.

This part is important: Estimate how much your boat and its rider(s) will weigh, so you'll know how many jugs to use.

Attach container modules

Connect your jug modules to your frame. One way to connect jugs is with clear plastic zip ties.

With sandpaper or a nail file, smooth out any rough spots on the frame. (Remember, you'll be sitting or kneeling on it.)

## CHECK OUT THESE HOW-TO VIDEOS:

[youtube.com/watch?v=p\\_sXjcKQ9bY](https://youtube.com/watch?v=p_sXjcKQ9bY)

[youtube.com/watch?v=-66pyZoHsjM](https://youtube.com/watch?v=-66pyZoHsjM)

[youtube.com/watch?v=qfecJqH2eNM](https://youtube.com/watch?v=qfecJqH2eNM)

Get ready to ride! Have all your riders put on their life preservers. Then get on board and paddle. Does your boat float and steer as you expected? What adjustments does it need?

