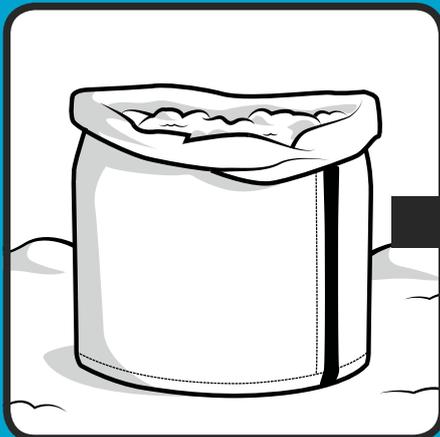


 **THE
SNOW
SCULP
TURE
BAG**

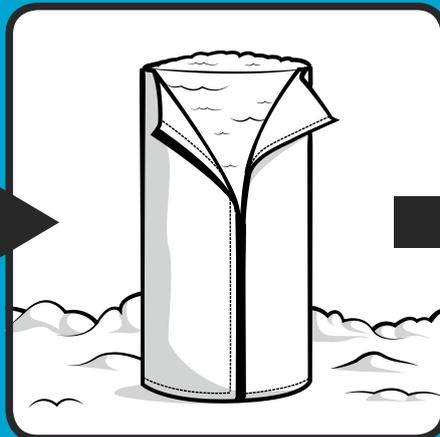


**OR SNOW
SCULPTURE**

**CREATE A PERFECT SNOWMAN USING ANY
KIND OF SNOW IN ANY TEMPERATURE**



FILL UP



UNZIP



CREATE

WHAT TO EXPECT

You probably know how hard it is to find the right conditions to make a snowman. If it's too cold, the snow won't stick. If it's too warm, your perfect snowman is already a slushy puddle the next day. With the Snow Sculpture Bag, it's possible to create a snowman—or even much more advanced snow sculptures!—in almost any snow and weather conditions.

Keep in mind: The Snow Sculpture Bag is a super helpful tool, but it won't do the work for you. Snow is heavy, so it'll be hard work, and understanding how snow behaves takes practice. Don't expect perfect results the first time. Mistakes will happen, but you'll learn from them, and before you know it, you'll be an expert snow sculptor!



*Eager to get started and want to jump right in?
Then **skip ahead to the instructions on page 6.***

Otherwise, keep reading to learn more about the art of snow sculpting and how to avoid the most common mistakes.

CAN KIDS USE THIS PRODUCT?

People of all ages can use the Snow Sculpture Bag and enjoy the creative process of snow sculpting. But there are a few things to consider if you plan to include kids in the process:

- Snow is heavier than it looks, and filling the whole bag with it is hard work, even for grownups!
- When completely filled up, the Snow Sculpture Bag is 5 feet (150 cm) tall, so it might be hard for kids to reach the whole thing unless they have something to stand on.
- The snow sculpting is the fun part and is very kid-friendly, as long as you're making snowmen or other simple sculptures that only require using your hands. More advanced sculptures or icy snow may require sharper tools, like saws and knives, which may not be suitable for children.
- Finally, successful results require the ability to read and follow these instructions, some of which are pretty advanced. We recommend that an adult be involved the first time a child uses the Snow Sculpture Bag.



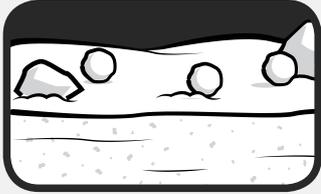
SNOW TYPES

It is said that the indigenous Sami people of northern Scandinavia have 200 words describing different kinds of snow. We won't be getting into that much detail, but for making great snow sculptures, it's good to know about a few and what to expect with each of them.



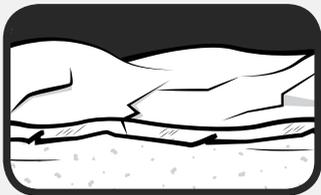
POWDER

Powdery snow that is untouched and uncompacted is often great for snow sculpting. It's light to work with, and it's possible to pack it really hard—which is exactly what you want.



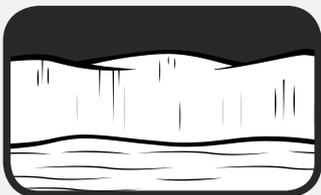
MOIST SNOW

This is the snow you're probably thinking of when you imagine making snowballs or building snowmen. It's also a good choice for snow sculpting. You'll find this snow when the temperature is near freezing.



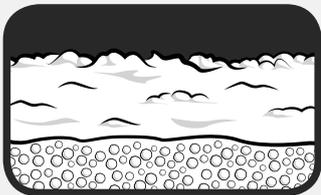
CRUST

Crust happens when the top layer of powdery snow melts then freezes again. It's hard and icy and not optimal for snow sculptures. If it has snowed recently, you can often find a layer of powdery snow on top of the crust that can be scraped off and used. There may be more densely compacted snow underneath the crust—and if it's not icy, it can also work very well for snow sculpting.



ICY, COMPACTED SNOW

When snow melts and freezes multiple times, it becomes hard and icy. If this is all you can find, try to dig deep to see if maybe there's better material below. If everything is icy and compact, you can try to crush it into smaller pieces and still give it a shot. Let the filled-up bag stay overnight to let it freeze. You'll get a very hard, icy block of snow, but it's still possible to cut out a snowman or other simple sculptures.



ICY SLUSH

When snow melts but does not refreeze completely, you'll eventually end up with icy, grainy, wet snow. This is most common in late spring, when snow tends to melt during the day. If this is what you have to work with, you need to let the filled-up bag stay overnight and hope the weather is cold enough to turn it into a cylinder of ice. With luck you'll be able to make an ice/snow sculpture, but if it's not cold enough to freeze, it will fall apart.

Note that you'll often find a mixture of the types of snow listed here. When possible, it's always best to use powder or moist snow. And always try to stay away from lumps of ice and slush.

TEMPERATURE

While snow sculpting is certainly possible in almost any winter weather, some basic knowledge about snow and temperature will help you get the most out of your snow sculpting experience.

ABOVE 36°F (+2°C)

You'll definitely want to find a shaded spot if it's this warm. The snow at these temps will probably be slushy, too, so dig beneath the top layer to see what you can find. Also, check the forecast! Your snow sculpture likely won't last more than a day unless colder weather is coming.

28 TO 36°F (-2 TO +2°C)

Anything is possible when it's right around freezing. The snow could be powdery, moist, packed, slushy, or icy. Odds are you'll be able to make a great snow sculpture—but be picky about the snow you choose. Snow in sheltered and shady areas will likely be better than snow that has been exposed to sun and wind.

17 TO 27°F (-8 TO -3°C)

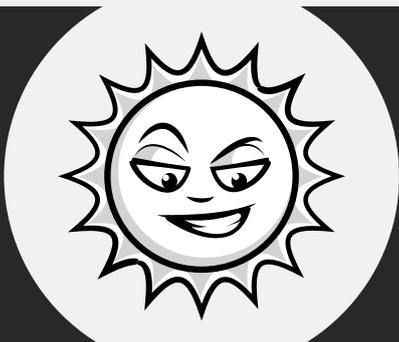
This is the sweet spot for snow sculpting. The snow should be supple and strong, especially if the temperatures haven't been fluctuating much. An added bonus is that, unless there's a sudden weather change, you don't have to worry about your sculpture melting.

5 TO 16°F (-15 TO -9°C)

Temps this cold make for dry, brittle snow, which can be harder to work with, but it's still possible to get excellent results. It might be more difficult to pack the snow tightly, so you need to sculpt a bit more carefully. Also, after unzipping and removing the bag, it's a good idea to let your cylinder of snow stay for a few hours, or overnight, before you start sculpting.

BELOW 5°F (-15°C)

When it's this cold, it'll be even harder to pack the dry, brittle snow without it falling apart. It's definitely still possible to create snow sculptures, but it's always best to let your snow cylinder stay overnight before you start sculpting. If you can unzip the bag without snow falling out, let it stay without the bag. Otherwise, let the bag stay on overnight. It's also a good idea to do your work during the warmest part of the day and stick to simple projects.



NOTE: *When the temperature is near or above freezing (32°F/0°C), the sun can quickly wreak havoc on a snow sculpture. If warm and sunny days are in the forecast, try to find a shady spot to build your sculpture. (Otherwise, take your pictures right away.)*

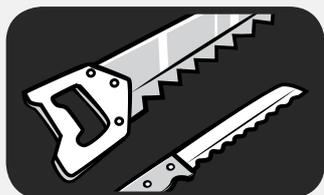
TOOLS NEEDED

While you can get pretty good results using nothing but your hands and the Snow Sculpture Bag, you probably already have some tools at home that will make it easier for you.



TOOLS FOR FILLING UP THE BAG

You might be surprised how much snow it takes to fill the bag. If you have a snow shovel/scoop, that's great. If you don't, any kind of large bucket or box will work too.



TOOLS FOR ROUGH SCULPTING

For removing larger sections of snow and/or cutting holes in your block of snow, the best tools are saws and bread knives. The longer the saw, the better. And just to be clear, we're talking manual saws here. No need to go wielding a chainsaw!



TOOLS FOR FINE SCULPTING

Unless the snow is very hard and icy, all you need to make a perfect snowman is your hands (with gloves). You probably even have everything you need in your kitchen drawer or toolbox to make more advanced sculptures. Grab anything that looks useful and see what works best.

SCULPTING TIPS

TAKE IT SLOW

Mistakes can be hard to repair, especially when snow conditions aren't ideal—so err on the side of caution. It's always better to remove too little snow than too much.

IF YOU MAKE A MISTAKE

If the snow is moist, fixing mistakes is fairly easy, as a handful of snow will easily stick to your sculpture. For dry snow, fill up a bucket with snow and pour some water on it until it becomes sticky and moist. You can also pack snow in a bucket, flip it over, and cut out replacement parts from the smaller block of snow you just created.

WORK FROM TOP TO BOTTOM

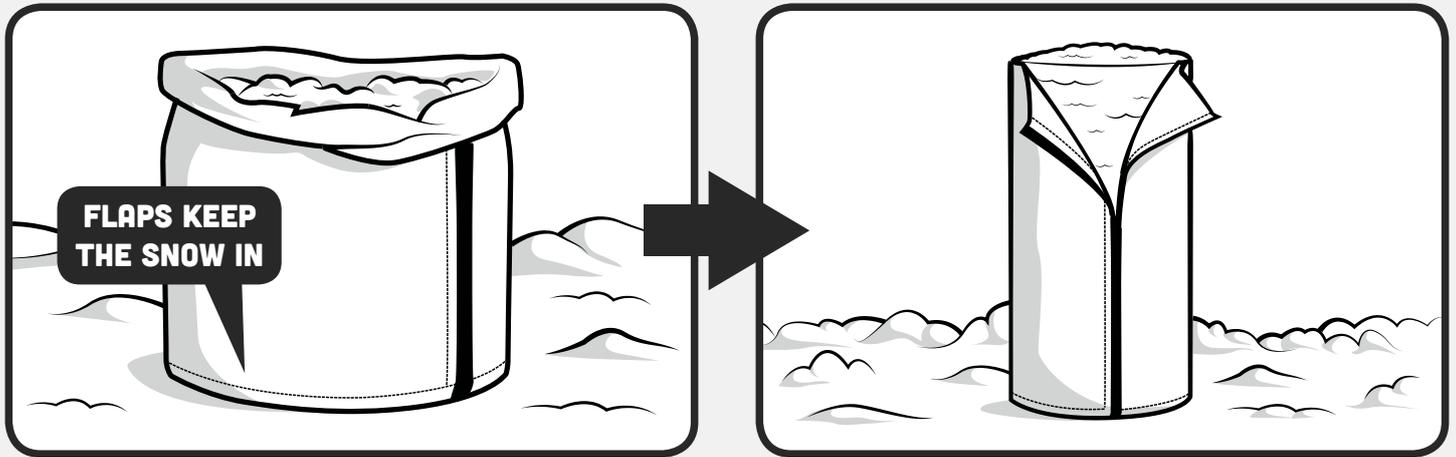
You can start anywhere you like for rough sculpting, but when finalizing your sculpture and doing the finer details, always work from the top down. If you start from the bottom, the snow you remove from the top will fall down and mess up everything you did below.

DON'T FORGET THE BIG PICTURE

It's easy to get caught up in details, but try to remember to take a step back and look at your sculpture from different angles as often as possible to catch problems early.

HOW IT WORKS

The Snow Sculpture Bag is simply a strong tarp tube with a zipper, which you fill with snow (packed hard) and then unzip. Voila! You now have a large cylinder of hard-packed snow that can be used to create many different kinds of snow sculptures. The secret is the flaps at the bottom that keep the snow from leaking out, so it's important that you use them correctly.

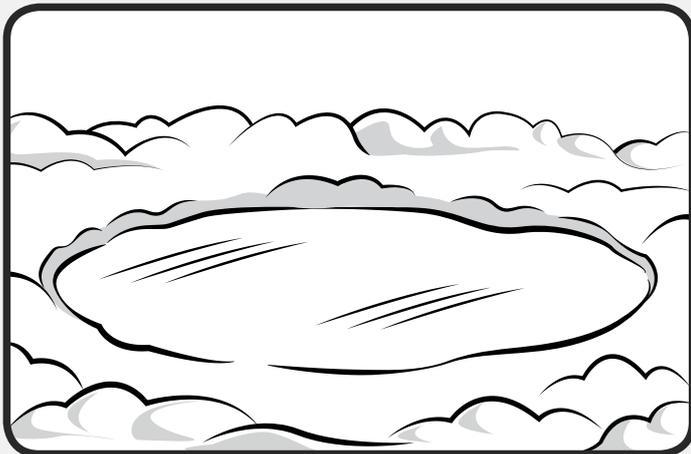


NOTE: A common misconception is thinking that the snow should be mixed with water. That is not true. Unless you're trying to fix a sculpting mistake (see page 5), you should never add water.



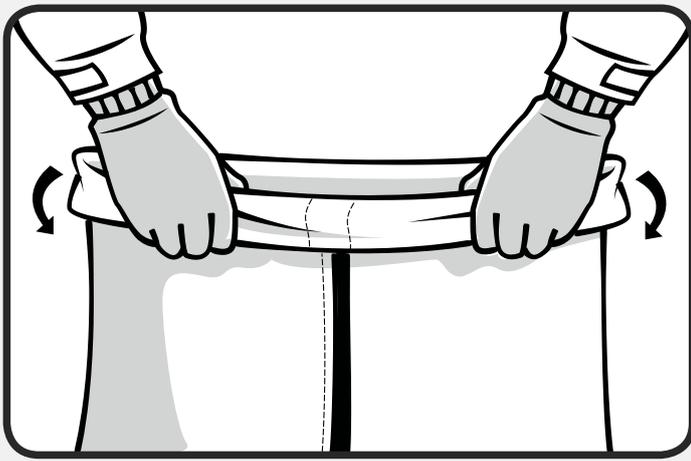
Although we've included all the information you need here, it's much easier to show than to describe in writing. So we strongly recommend that you also check out our instruction video. Simply scan the QR code on the left or follow this link: <http://mindmade.com/snowsculpturebag>

STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS



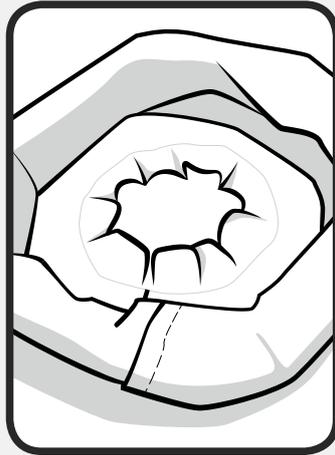
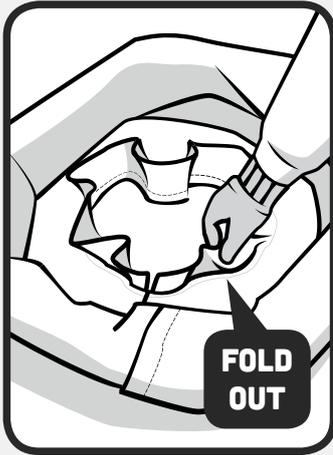
STEP 1

You need a flat surface to build on, so choose a spot and pack the snow as hard as you can using your hands and feet. The flatter and harder you can make it, the better.



STEP 2

Start at the top (the side that does NOT have flaps or logos), and roll/fold your way down just like you would do when rolling up a shirt sleeve. Stop when there is about 1.5 feet (45 cm) left.



STEP 3

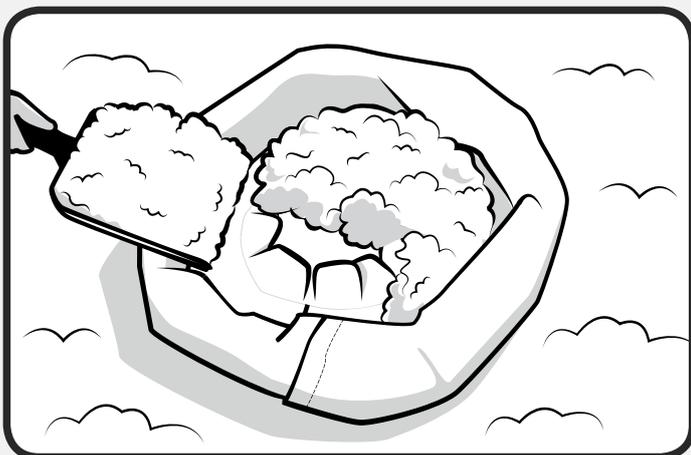
Place your bag on the ground (with the flaps/logos at the bottom), and do your best to fold out the tarp flaps inside it so it looks something like the image to the left.

NOTE: This can be a bit awkward, and it probably looks like it will never work. But don't worry, it will take shape when you start filling it with snow.



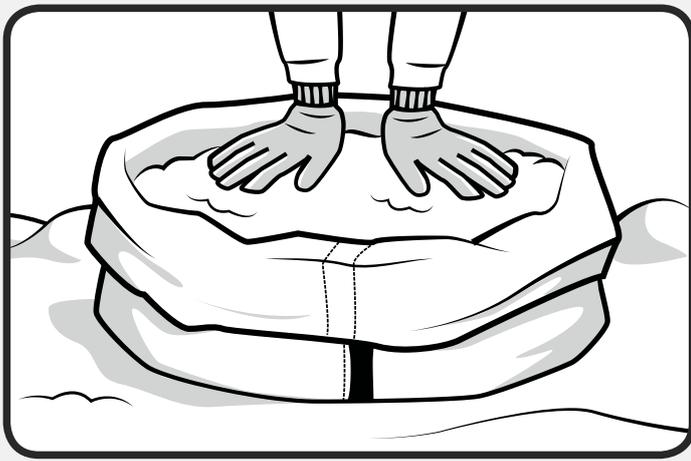
STEP 4

Make sure that you **do not** see the black seam from the outside, as it should be folded in under the bag. If you do see the seam, or if snow starts leaking out when you fill up the bag, make sure to fold the bottom part of the bag in so that the seam is no longer visible from the outside.



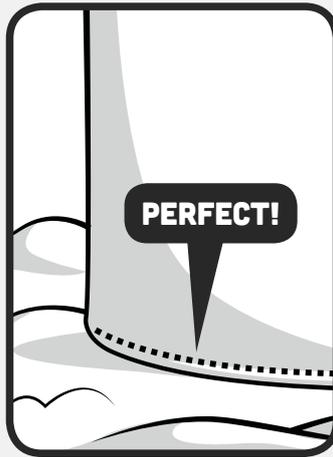
STEP 5

Begin filling the bag with snow. Start at the sides, and make sure the snow lands on top of the folded-out tarp flaps. This is an important step, because the flaps are there to keep the bag from leaking snow at the bottom.



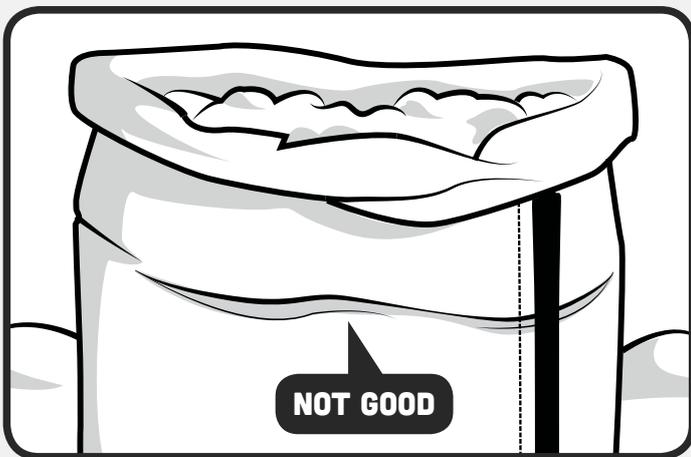
STEP 6

Fill up the bag with more snow and use your hands to pack it hard. Continue filling it up and packing the snow until you have about 1 foot (30 cm) of packed snow in the bag.



STEP 7

Now it's time to straighten up your rather shapeless bag and also line up the inside flaps with the ground. Carefully tug upwards on the side of the bag until you just see the black seam near the bottom. Continue doing this all around the bag until the entire black seam is visible from the outside and lined up as close to the ground as possible.



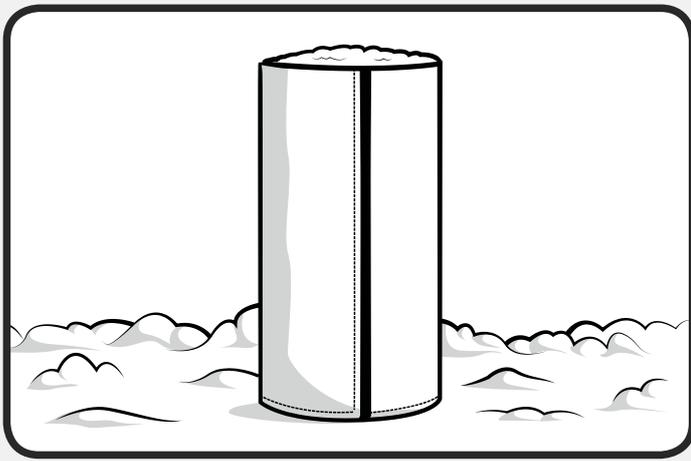
STEP 8

Continue filling up the bag, rolling up the sides as you go and packing the snow hard until the bag is about 2 feet (60 cm) tall. While packing, watch out for wrinkles. Smaller wrinkles are inevitable and not a problem, but if you notice a really big wrinkle, fix it by removing snow on that side until you can fill up the hole that caused the wrinkle.



STEP 9

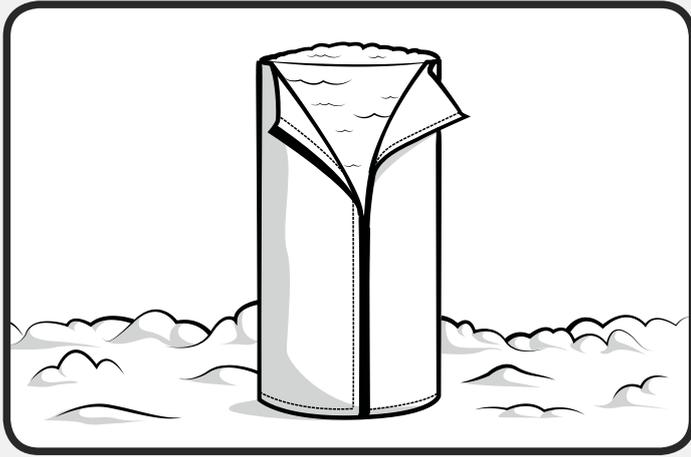
Now is also a good time to check if your bag is standing straight, because the straighter it is from the start, the better. If it's not straight, fix it by carefully lifting up one side and pushing in snow under the bag until it's straight. This can be done later in the process as well, but it's easier to do before the bag becomes really heavy.



STEP 10

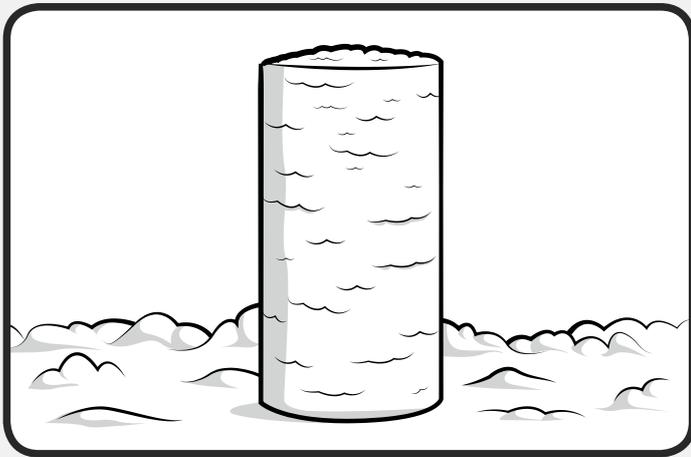
Continue filling up the bag with snow. After every foot (30 cm) of snow you put in, stop and pack the snow as hard as you can. When you reach the top of the bag, you're all done!

TIP: *The harder you pack the snow, the better. So, don't hold back.*



STEP 11

Usually you can unzip the bag immediately, but if you are dealing with unfavorable snow or temperature conditions, you may want to let the bag stay on overnight (see pages 3 and 4). After unzipping, carefully pull out the flaps. If they're stuck, you may have to do a little digging. Once you've removed the bag, repair any holes caused by pulling out the flaps.



STEP 12

Now it's time to inspect the snow quality. If the snow feels fairly solid and you're doing a snowman or another simple sculpture, you can start right away. If the snow feels porous (usually when it's really cold) or if you're doing an advanced sculpture with a lot of details, it's best to wait a few hours, or even let your snow cylinder stay overnight, to let the snow crystals freeze together more.

STEP 13

Start sculpting! But what to sculpt? Whatever you can imagine, give it a try! But if you want a little inspiration and some helpful tips, check out the examples on pages 11-15. If you have any questions, feel free to contact us at info@mindmade.com.

WE WOULD LOVE TO SEE WHAT YOU MAKE

Use the hashtag #thesnowsculpturebag on social media to share photos of your creations with the world and see what others have made.

CREATING A TALLER SCULPTURE

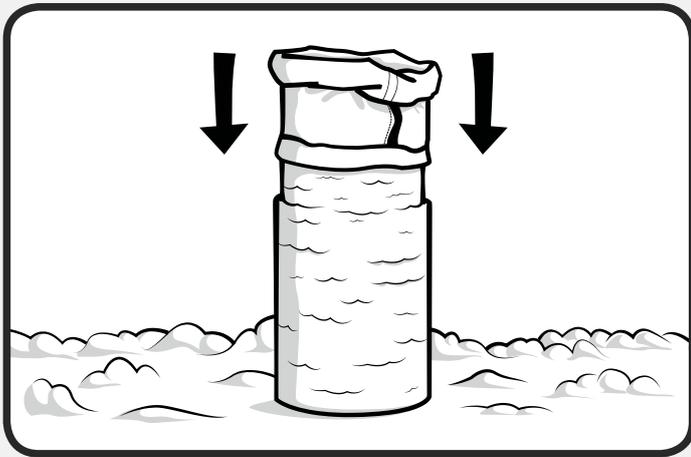
If you want to create a taller sculpture (the owl on page 15, for example), it's possible to stack the Snow Sculpture Bag. If this is the first time you're using the bag, though, we strongly recommend that you **do not** do this. No, really. Don't. You'll most likely fail, because stacking is much more complex and a lot riskier and should only be attempted when you've mastered simpler sculptures.



WARNING: A tall sculpture is much more likely to fall. Being hit by a massive block of snow can lead to serious injury or worse. We take no responsibility for any accidents caused, and doing this is at your own risk. Finally, whatever you do, **never** attempt a tall sculpture with children around.

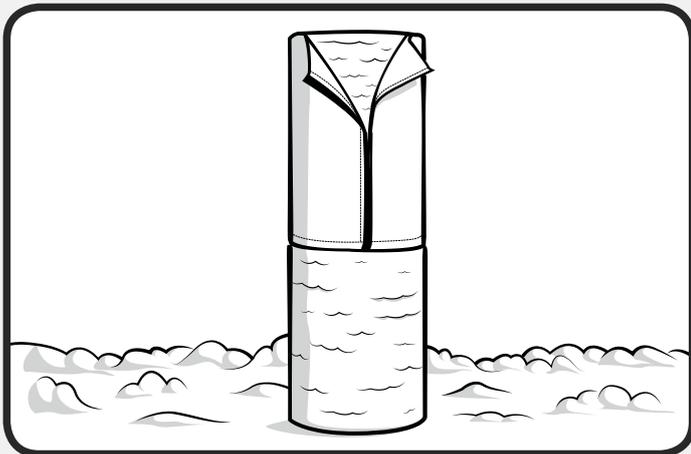
STEP 1

First of all, you're going to need a ladder or something else to stand on. It's also important that you have at least 10 feet (3 m) of free space around the bag, so that if it falls, it doesn't break something—or someone.



STEP 2

Follow the steps on pages 6-9 to create a cylindrical block of snow. After you've removed the bag, zip it back up and roll it up again, leaving the flaps at the bottom folded in. Slip the bottom of the bag over the top of the existing cylinder. It probably won't fit at first, so use your hands or a suitable tool to shave off some snow near the top until you can slip it on tightly.



STEP 3

Fill up the bag with snow again, packing it hard, just like you did when creating the first cylinder. Continue as high as you want before unzipping.

IMPORTANT: The taller you make your cylinder, the more important it is that you make sure it's as straight as possible.

SNOWMAN / WOMAN

DIFFICULTY
EASY

You'll be the envy of the neighborhood when you create a perfect snowman or snowwoman when the snow isn't right for anyone else.

TIPS FOR BEST RESULTS

- For any snow that isn't super icy, all you need is your hands (with good winter gloves on) to shape the round sections. Whether you do two or three sections is completely up to you. Typical snowmen/women have three sections, but doing one with two sections will be a little faster.
- For the perfect arms, look for relatively thick sticks with three distinct branches that can be cut down to create hands. If you can't find any good hand-like sticks, a pair of gloves stuck on the ends of the sticks will do nicely.
- Stones are fine for buttons and eyes, but for even better results, look around at home or visit a craft store to find something round and black to use. If you also want a better-looking mouth than the usual one made with stones, you can try using a small piece of relatively thick black rope and shaping it into a smile. For the nose, you'll get the best result with a large, carefully peeled carrot.
- The best way to put on a snow cap or hat is to fill it with snow, and then use a stick to attach it to the head. If you want to do ear warmers, cut off an old pair and use a piece of folded cloth to extend it so it fits. Finally, don't forget the scarf!



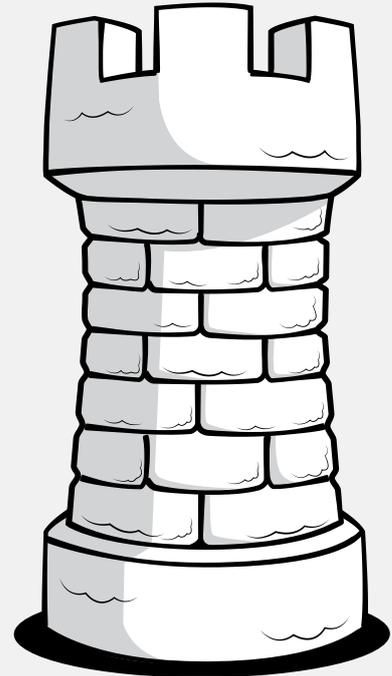
MEDIEVAL TOWER

DIFFICULTY
EASY

The medieval tower is a great beginner's sculpture that's simple to make but looks very impressive.

TIPS FOR BEST RESULTS

- Use a bread knife to cut out the basic shape and the top part of the tower.
- A soup ladle is good for scooping out snow to make the tower hollow at the top.
- Do you have a wooden spoon with a round handle? Then you have a great tool to make grooves in order to create the illusion of bricks.
- Feel free to decorate the tower with a flag at the top; or why not light it up using LED lights made for outdoor use?



ICE CREAM CONE

DIFFICULTY
MEDIUM

If you want something a bit more challenging, an ice cream cone will look really cool (pun intended).

TIPS FOR BEST RESULTS

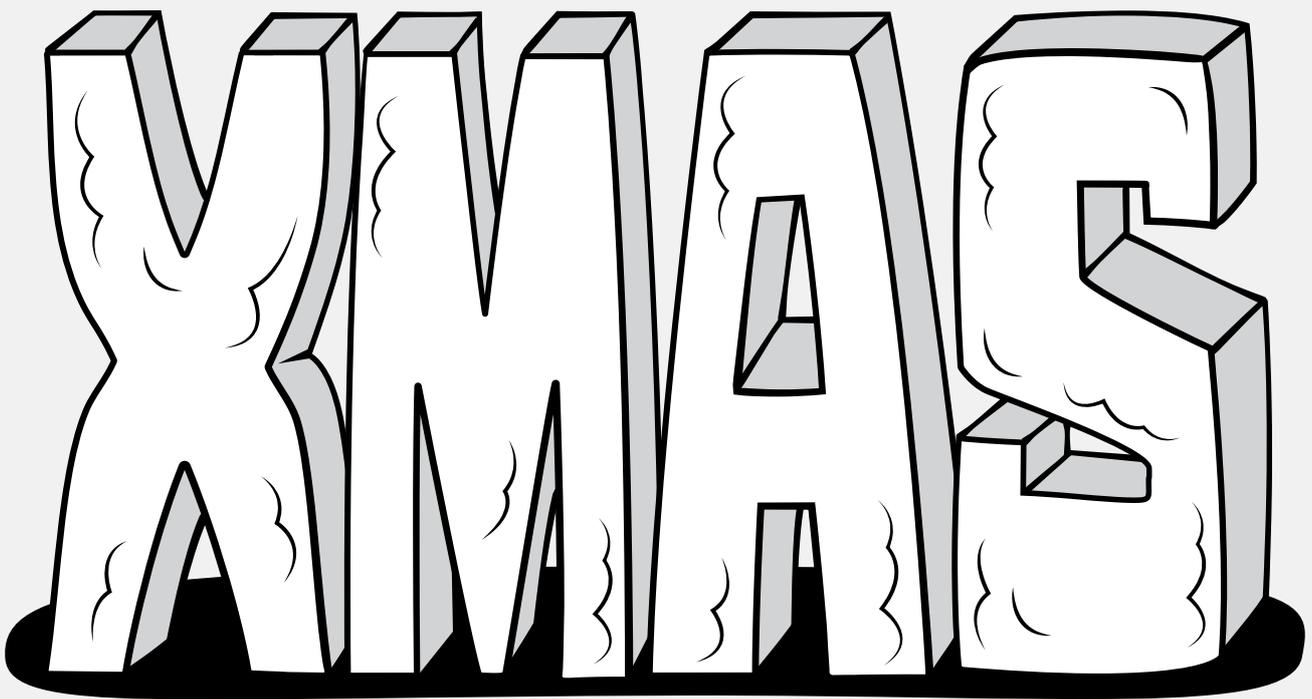
- Use a bread knife or saw to remove larger sections of snow, then even it out with your hands to create the basic shape.
- Try to make it look like the ice cream layers swirl around like they do on a real soft-serve ice cream cone.
- For the waffle cone, use a small knife to cut out all the squares. (This will take a while.)
- Be extra careful to keep this sculpture straight, since the cone is narrower at the bottom. And don't overdo the narrowing so it topples over.



Writing in 5-foot (150 cm) letters made of snow is a great way to get your message across. Most letters aren't overly hard to make, but since you need to fill one Snow Sculpture Bag per letter, it's hard work.

TIPS FOR BEST RESULTS

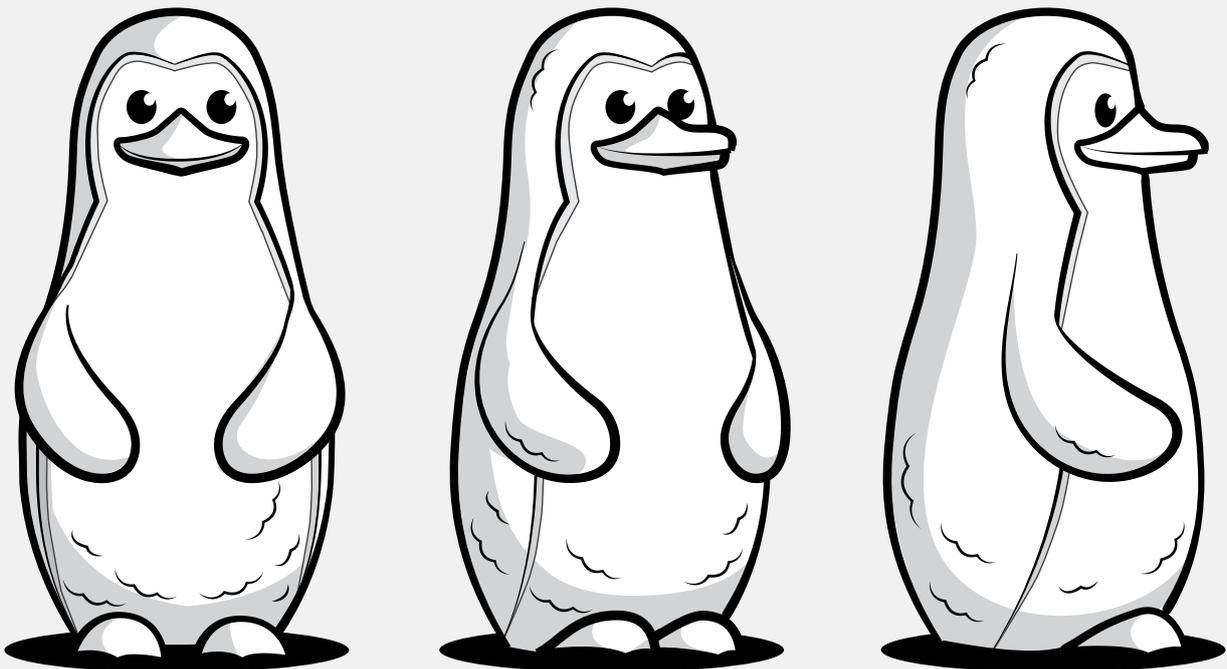
- Letters are easiest to make with really solid snow. So, let your cylinder of snow freeze together for a few hours, or overnight, before starting.
- Needless to say, the longer the words you choose, the more time the project will take. So, choose wisely based on how much time you want to invest.
- You will need a saw, the longer the better, to cut out the shapes.
- Try to make your letters as wide and deep as possible to minimize the risk of them toppling over. For extra stability, you can also make the letters slightly wider at the bottom than at the top.
- Another factor to consider when deciding what to write: Some letters are harder to make than others. For example, an F will be harder to make than an A because of the protruding vertical lines. If you still want to attempt tricky letters, make sure you create a stable base, and don't make unsupported vertical blocks of snow too long.
- Got any string lights for outdoor use? Then you know what your next project is going to be!



Penguins are great for snow sculptures thanks to their bowling-pin shape. That said, creating any animal using snow is hard, so don't expect this to be easy or quick.

TIPS FOR BEST RESULTS

- Since this is a sculpture with a lot of detail, you're going to need really solid snow. So, let your cylinder of snow freeze together for a few hours, or overnight, before starting.
- The pictures below show the penguin from the front and side as well as from an angle. Use the pictures from the front and side to first draw outlines, and then cut out the basic shape using a saw and/or bread knife.
- Be careful not to remove too much snow in the wings, feet, and beak areas. It's better to leave a bit of extra snow there so you have a margin of error when doing the finer sculpting.
- Obviously, you won't be able to replicate the black back and white belly of a real penguin. So, it's important to create a sharp line between what would have been the black and white areas on the real thing.
- Look around at home or visit a craft store to find something round and black to use for the eyes.
- If you think your penguin looks a bit cold, you could always give it a cap and a scarf.



OWL ON A STUMP

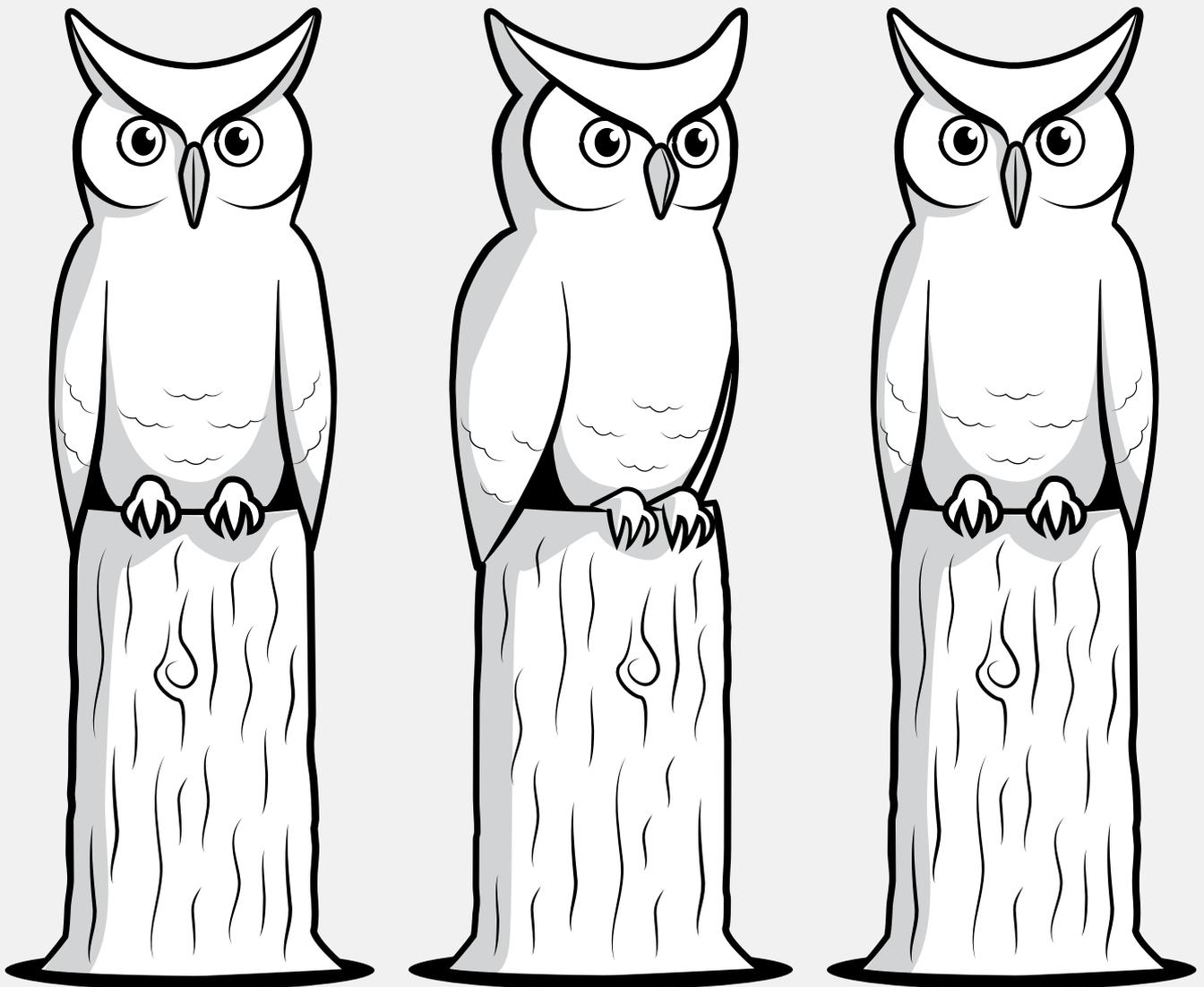
DIFFICULTY
HARD

This is the most advanced sculpture we have to offer you. Hats off to you if you can pull it off!

NOTE: This sculpture is taller than the other examples. In order to create it, you first need to follow the bag-stacking instructions on page 10. The second bag should be filled about **two-thirds** full.

TIPS FOR BEST RESULTS

- Let your cylinder of snow freeze together for a few hours, or overnight, before starting.
- Look around at home or visit a craft store to find something round and black to use for the eyes. If you want to take it one step further, you can try to create more owl-like eyes using yellow and black paper, cardboard, glue, and a pair of scissors.
- Don't forget to make grooves in the stump to create the illusion of bark. If you want to make your owl even more impressive, you can also attempt to "draw" feathers.



Use hashtag **#THESNOWSCULPTUREBAG** to share your creations and see what others have made.