

# HOW TO MAKE YOUR OWN CLEANLAMP

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Cleanlamps are an environmentally friendly, easy way to turn used laundry detergent containers into beautiful lights.

Cleanlamps come in many shapes and sizes, from chandeliers to a Burton Snowboarding Competition 1<sup>st</sup> place trophies. Just remember to use a low wattage bulb to keep your cleanlamp cool. I hope that you enjoy making your very own cleanlamp!



## To build your cleanlamp you will need these tools

1. a drill or electric drill
2. a set of wire strippers
3. a 1/2 inch wrench or pair of pliers
4. a sharp x-acto knife
5. a 5/16<sup>th</sup> drill bit
6. a Phillips style screwdriver



## To build your cleanlamp, you will need these parts

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| 1. empty detergent container                 | \$ 0.00 |
| 2. (3) 6 x 5/16 <sup>th</sup> carriage bolts | \$ 3.00 |
| 3. (6) 5/16 <sup>th</sup> nuts               | \$ 1.20 |
| 4. (6) 5/16 <sup>th</sup> washers            | \$ 1.20 |
| 5. (1) lamp cord                             | \$ 1.75 |
| 6. (1) bottom switch lamp socket             | \$ 2.49 |

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Total cost: \$ 9.64



1. First you need to wash the container. Unscrew the top and recycle it. If you like, don't wash the inside excessively, leaving just a slight hint of the detergent in the bottle (this makes the cleanlamp smell like fresh laundry when it is lit).



2. After you have dried off the container, take your x-acto knife and trim off the very small seam that resides along the bottom. Removing this seam makes your life much easier when you drill the holes later on.



3. Take your 5/16<sup>th</sup> inch drill bit and carefully drill three holes on the bottom edge of the container. Put one hole along the center of the container's side with the handle and then a hole in each corner on the spout side. Sometimes it is easier to use a smaller bit first and then work your way up to the 5/16<sup>th</sup> inch bit.



4. You will need to drill two more holes on the bottom, one for the lamp socket switch and the other for the lamp cord. Drill the lamp socket hole first placing it directly under the center of the top opening (the spout) of the container. Then, drill the other hole about an inch or so beside it (this hole resides more underneath the handle). Use your x-acto knife to carefully clean up the newly drilled holes, trimming away any unwanted plastic.



5. Now you will need to cut off the top of your container. Carefully take your x-acto knife and slice through the plastic just beneath the threaded 'cuff' of the top. The size of this opening is up to you but make it big enough so you can just fit your hand in to make the assembly easier in the steps to follow.

6. Take one of your carriage bolts and screw on a nut about an inch or so down, then put on a washer. Take the bolts (along with the newly attached nut and washer) and stick it into one of the three leg holes that you drilled in each corner of the container.



7. Reach inside the container and place a washer and then a nut on the end of the bolt and finger tighten each nut until snug. Repeat steps 6 and 7 for the remaining two legs



8. Once you have all the legs installed, place the container on its new feet and see how it stands. Adjust the length of each leg by screwing in the legs until the container sits level on the table. Then, with your wrench, tighten each nut on the outside of the container while holding the carriage bolt with your other hand until they are fastened securely. You are almost done!



9. Take your lamp cord and strip the end of the wire, removing the plastic sheathing about  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch from the end of the wire. Then, take your fingers and twist the bare wire end to keep all the small wires (which make up the cord) together. Do this for each of the two wires as shown.



10. Now, thread the lamp cord through the hole on the bottom which is closer to the handle side of the container. Once it is through the base, tie a simple knot about 4 inches or so down the cord – this keeps the cord from slipping out of the hole. Then, attach each wire end of the lamp cord to the bottom of your socket.



11. Remove the nut from the end of the socket and then reach inside the container and stick the end of the socket through the empty hole in the bottom of the container – you may have to push it a bit to get it through. Once it is through take the nut and screw it on to the end of the socket. Finally, tie another knot in the cord on the outside of the container to keep the cord from slipping



12. Then, add a low wattage bulb (note: do not use a bulb that is more than 25W) and be sure that the bulb is not touching any part of the container's walls. Plug your new cleanlamp into the wall and voila!

Congratulations! You can now enjoy the cleanest light!