



## How to Make a Killing Jar

### A. Safety Precautions

Any substance which is poisonous enough to kill insects could be hazardous to your health if not handled carefully. Do not get any of the killing fluid on your hands or clothing. Do not inhale fumes. Use only jars that can be tightly sealed. Charge the killing jar in the out-of-doors where you are least likely to inhale fumes. Label the killing jar POISON.

### B. Materials

1. Clear, wide-mouth jars with tight-fitting lids
2. Plaster of Paris
3. Clean sand
4. Disposable paper cup to mix the plaster in
5. Disposable plastic spoon
6. Match stick or 3 inch long section of wooden cooking skewer
7. Petroleum jelly or other lubricant cream/jelly
8. Access to water
9. Non-acetone finger nail polish remover

### C. Procedure

1. Place sand in the bottom of the jar to a depth of 1 inch.
2. Mix Plaster of Paris into a thick but pourable paste. Spoon the plaster over the sand evenly to a depth of ½ to 1 inch. Tap the bottom of the jar firmly on the table to level the plaster mixture. Put a thin coat of Petroleum jelly on the match stick before pushing it into the plaster and sand at the edge of the jar. Turn the match stick around in the hole to be sure it is loose.
3. Remove the match stick as soon as the plaster is set enough to pull the stick out without the hole collapsing.
4. Allow the plaster to dry completely for 24 hours.
5. Add non-acetone finger nail polish remover to the jar until the plaster and sand are saturated. A tiny plug of cotton may be needed in the hole left when the match stick is removed. Put on a tight lid.
6. Label the killing jar POISON
7. Crumble strips of paper toweling or tissue in the killing jar to absorb moisture and keep insects separated.

**NOTE Moths and Butterflies:** Each collector should have at least two killing jars. One jar should be large enough for moths and butterflies. Do not add paper to a moth/butterfly jar. Moth and butterfly wings are covered with tiny scales, and some of these can be knocked off in the killing jar. Never put more than one moth or butterfly in a jar at a time.

### INSECT KILLING JAR

