

## Match Safe from Plastic Prescription Bottle: DIY!



The best match safe I've ever had is made from a plastic prescription bottle. It's long enough for standard-sized kitchen matches. It seals watertight and airtight. It's light enough to float. It's bright enough to find if dropped. And it has one endearing characteristic I'll tell you at the end of this Tip.

There are two kinds of wooden matches.

There is the kind with the red tip, called "Strike On Box" matches. It is a safer match, because the only place to strike it that works is on the box. If you don't have the box, though, you're out of luck.

The second kind has a red tip with a white end, called "Strike Anywhere" matches. As long as you don't wear the white tip off, it will light when it strikes any abrasive surface. That means rocks, bricks, some steel, sandpaper, etc. A cowboy I know lights his matches with his thumbnail. (Don't do this at home, kids!)

**Use only "Strike Anywhere" matches in your match safe.** When you put them in the match safe, put half in heads-down and half in heads-up. You could even put a bit of cotton in the bottom and top of the bottle to stop the matches from rubbing. That can also stop a potential fire if they rub enough to catch fire. It doesn't happen often. You'll know if it does.

Now, the one endearing characteristic of the plastic prescription bottle? You can **break it!** This doesn't sound like a big deal, until you imagine that you are trying to start a fire in extreme cold. Imagine your hands getting so cold that you cannot get the top off the bottle. Well - **stomp on the bottle, break it, grab a handful of matches, and start your fire!** It could save your life!