

2026 BUCKET OF JUNK SCULPTURE CONTEST

Sponsored by Home Depot

Superintendent: Marsha Johnson

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The competition is presented by The Vermont State Fair and the finished sculptures will be displayed in the President's Building during the fair.

No Judge, Superintendent, or paid employees of the Bucket of Junk contest will be eligible to display or design for competition in this department.

Procedure for Entering Bucket of Junk

1. The contest is limited to 12 applicants (individual or team) and will be on first come first serve basis. There will be a waiting list to replace any applicant that drops out of the contest before the fair, as well as any applicant that does not collect their bucket of supplies.
2. Buckets must be picked up at the Vermont State Fair Office, 175 South Main Street in Rutland from July 8th to July 10th from 2:00pm to 4:00pm. Any buckets remaining after July 10th will go to the next applicant on the waiting list.
3. All sculptures must be dropped off at the President's Building on Monday, August 17th, between 1:00pm and 4:00pm. If this time is not convenient, please contact the superintendent before August 17th to schedule an appointment for dropping off. No exceptions.
DO NOT USE THE BUCKET AS PART OF THE SCULPTURE OR BASE!
4. When delivering the sculpture, please return your bucket. Your sculpture will remain on display from August 18th -22nd, the duration of the Fair.
5. Sculptures are to be picked up on Sunday, August 23rd between 12:00pm and 2:00pm. Any sculpture not claimed at 2:00pm will be disposed of.

Judging Criteria:

- A. Contestant used only the materials that we provided (required)... 25%
- B. Contestant used materials in a new way to create something different... 25%
- C. Contestant's ideas are recognizable (clarity of the idea) ... 25%
- D. Contestant's overall finished appearance of the sculpture, including the difficulty of the piece and how well it was made... 25%

Premiums:

1st place \$75.00; 2nd place \$50.00; 3rd place \$25.00

Presentation:

- A. The objective of "Bucket of Junk" is to create a sculpture using only the items in the bucket. A sculpture is defined as a three-dimensional work of art that can be viewed from 360 degrees.
- B. All sculptures must be submitted presentation-ready to be accepted. Sculptures not meeting this requirement may not be judged.
- C. The judges must know where you used each item in the bucket. Please note, you must use each item. You do not need to use the entire item in your sculpture but there must be enough used to make it visible. The only optional pieces in the bucket are the packaging from different items,

i.e., cardboard packaging, plastic bag, etc. However, if you want to use it, you may, they are just not mandatory.

- D. You may not add any additional items to your sculpture. Only the items in the bucket are permitted to be part of your sculpture. The bucket may not be used as part of the sculpture. There will be a list of contents in each bucket. Please indicate on the list where each item was used. Please return this list completely filled out when you drop off your sculpture.
- E. You can cut, weld, melt, paint, shave, curl, staple, or glue these items to make your sculpture.
- F. You may connect your entry to a solid base for stability, if needed. The base cannot be part of your sculpture. The base must also be smaller than the sculpture and is NOT to be painted. The base will not be considered part of your sculpture so it will not be judged.
- G. The bucket and contents list must be returned when you enter your sculpture, and the bucket may not be used as part of the entry. Do NOT use the bucket as part of the sculpture nor base!
- H. Any sculpture larger than 20”L x 20”W will automatically be disqualified.
- I. Your sculpture must be completely finished when it arrives. No painting, construction, etc will be allowed after you bring it in.