



How to Build the Perfect Snowman

By Phillip Melchers

Remember that as a kid, snowman building came easy. In those days I tended to live by my own logical algorithm that stated, "I say it's a snowman, therefore it is." Now that I'm older however, I feel that such logic can no longer be utilized. Gone are the days when I could place a semblance of a face on a triple-pile up of snow and call it finished. With my adulthood came expectation. I feel that now, if I were to build a snowman, I best either make it perfect or be ready to debate it as some kind of artistic construct. Lucky for me, not all is lost in the art of snow crafting, as there are still a few strategies when it comes to making the perfect snowman.

Quick! What's similar about being a wino and a perfect snowman builder? Answer: they both require a certain connoisseurship. Now, this is not to say that building a snowman requires snow to be examined through a snifter, although it may make your crafting look more sophisticated, but one should

Snowmen fall from the sky... unassembled!

know their snow before going out to build. Snow that is just above freezing temperature, or a little moist is best. If powdery snow is all there is, then try adding a little moisture before working.

If the snow is right, then you are ready to get building. Building the parts of the snowman was always frustrating for me as a kid because in cartoons when someone rolled snow on the ground it always became a perfect ball, but in real life it often would end up barrel

shaped. To fix this, one can either shape the ball as it rolls, or for a quick detour just pile up snow and then sculpt it by hand. This might feel like cheating, but with a bit of finesse, even the nosiest of neighbours won't be able to tell.

Once the desired snowman figure is achieved, now it is time to start decorating. How you do this is up to you. A classic snowman face can be made out of a pair of buttons for eyes, a carrot nose and pipe, but sticks, rocks, or even a bit of food coloring can do the trick as well.

Although snowmen are conditioned for cold weather, they are not without their concerns for fashion, so it's always considerate to dress them by adding a pair of old sunglasses, a scarf and a pair of gloves on the end of sticks for arms. As an extra challenge, and perhaps some comedic relief, try building your snowman into a celebrity doppelganger. Better yet, why not make a portrait of your family accompanied by snow cats and snow dogs?

Now that your snowman is finished, the next step is appreciating your work while it lasts. After all, snowmen don't have a long life expectancy. Don't worry though, as the old song goes, "they'll be back again someday," (provided you build them up again). LH

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