

MAKING CHARCOAL



Dried hardwood cut into small blocks in a coffee can. Ideally an old paint can with holes poked in the lid works best.



Put a lid on your can and wire it on, or tap the lid down tight if you use a paint can.



Get a good hot firing going in your fireplace or in a 55 gallon barrel, and throw your coffee/paint can in.



After a while you will notice smoke coming out of the holes in your can lid, these gases will burn off as they escape leaving only pure charcoal.



Roll the can around a few times while it is cooking. The idea is to keep the air out so the wood won't catch fire but will allow all the carcinogenic gases to escape. When you think it's done leave it another 10 minutes to be sure.



Take the can out and let it cool off, make sure you give it plenty of time to cool so there are no hot spots to ignite when you take the lid off. Just cause it's cool on the outside doesn't mean it's cool on the inside.



You should end up with some nice charcoal like this.



Put it in a blender that you never plan to use for anything else (not your wifes) and grind it down.



It should look about like this.



Then strain it through a screen, and you have charcoal ready to be used in making Black Powder or any number of other things.

You can also use a tumbler with brass plugs to powder the charcoal if you have one.