

Inventor's Box

Celebrate National Inventor's Day by building your own kit for inventing—then start tinkering!

Collect

- Large bin or suitcase
- Items for attaching materials
- Items for building and tinkering
- Items for designing and drawing

Raid the recycling bin

Before these discarded treasures hit the curb for pick-up, look through your family's recycling for items that can be repurposed. Cereal boxes, cardboard packaging, yogurt cups, plastic lids, egg cartons, and paper towel or toilet paper tubes are all treasures in disguise!

Rummage through the sewing box, crafting container, and garage

Does someone in your house enjoy sewing, crafting, or woodworking? Ask permission to take any leftovers they may not be using anymore. Sewing boxes are a good place to find old buttons, scrap fabric, and spools of thread. You may also be able to find some scrap wood, yarn, and fun colored paper too.

Excavate the old toys from the bottom of the toy chest

Are there any action figures or dolls that you haven't played with in a long time? Do you have any broken toys or games with missing pieces? Move them to your new kit—you may reimagine new uses for them!

Look in the junk drawer

You will also want items that can bind materials together. Look for rubber bands of various sizes, tape of different textures, glue, rope, and string. Additionally, paper, a good pencil, scissors, and a ruler will come in handy as you develop new creations.

How do I start inventing?

Put your inventor materials in a bin or suitcase. Now that you have your supplies together, look for inspiration in the world around you. You can make anything you want! Draw out your ideas on paper, build your design, test it out, and make improvements. To start, try making something that flies, rolls, or floats. Maybe you could make a game or a puzzle and challenge a friend, or construct a vessel to hold a special treasure. The possibilities are endless!

