

PVC Pipe Method – Protecting your bird box from rat snakes



Use a PVC pipe that is at least 5 feet in length.

Diameter should be at least 4 inches.

Slip pipe over bird box pole.

Bury bottom of pipe 2-3 inches in ground so snakes can crawl under the pipe.

I put some dirt down inside the pipe to help it stand up straight, as well as dirt around the outside of the bottom of pipe.

Make sure you cap this pipe! Birds will fly down into any open pipe and will not be able to get out. Many birds die when they explore open pipes.



This picture shows the end cap that I use to make sure that birds cannot fly down into the pipe and become trapped.

Here is a sample of the type of end cap I use:

<https://www.lowes.com/pd/Charlotte-Pipe-4-in-dia-PVC-Schedule-40-Spigot-Test-Fitting/3339786>

I use a drill to cut a 1 and ¼ inch hole in the cap that a 1-inch bird box pole can fit through. You can also use a piece of hardware cloth bolted to the top of the pipe. Make sure you don't leave too much of a gap between the hardware cloth and the bird box pole. Birds or other small animals will try to squeeze into small holes and become trapped.

You can also use white duct tape to cover the gap between the pipe and the bird box pole. Replace when the tape begins to split or come loose.