



Cleaning a Live Rabbit Design Challenge

DESIGN CHALLENGE Notes:

This design challenge explores how to properly hold, wash, and care for a rabbit with health, safety, and sanitation.

For a better understanding in [the anatomy of a rabbit](#), [go here](#).

Problem: We need to make sure rabbit bottoms and feet remain health and sterile

Challenge: Rabbits are very easy to scare, but we have to be able to care for them. How can we wash a rabbit without hurting it or ourselves?

So rabbits seem really sweet and gentle and they are until they are startled. That's when the claws appear. We need to design a system that lets us hold and wash rabbits but keeps their claws safely secured.

Materials:

We need a rabbit or two
We need a tub full of warm water
We need a sunny day or a heated room
We need antibacterial soap
We need a towel and a fabric strap
We need long sleeves
Face masks and gloves

Brainstorm:

1. What kind of an animal is a rabbit?
2. Where does it live naturally?
3. How does it clean itself?
4. What do we need to help with?
5. What effect does petting a rabbit's ears have?
6. What affect does covering a rabbit's eyes have?

Design/Build:

1. In a safe contained space bring in the rabbits
2. Allow each student or team of students to meet the rabbit
3. Design a system for keeping the rabbit from trying to jump
4. Think of way to overcome your fear of the rabbit
5. Think of a way to help the rabbit stay calm
6. How will you keep water in the sink?

Test:

Now you need to keep the rabbit calm and in the water
Does your system work? Are you also getting wet?



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Evaluate:

- How will you record your results?
- How will you know how much of each component you have is doing what?
- Can you create different types of dirty materials and test them?
- What would you do differently?

Share:

- Record your cleaning wipe tests on a chart.
- Which combination or ratio of water to solvent worked best?
- How did you know?