How To Build Your Own Solar Thermal Panel For Around $5

Categories : Homesteading, Self-Sufficiency

I did a post a few days back about solar power for your home. Some folks on the Facebook page pointed out that the options featured were expensive and out of the reach of many people.

Today I am going to focus on budget solar power and when I say budget, I mean less than $5. That's right, for less than $5 you can build a solar thermal panel, which will heat water to a temperature that scalds.

This option is small-scale and it is built around a reclaimed heat dispersal system from an old refrigerator (which you can get with the gas removed from your local dump). It has no pump as it is gravity fed and it requires no electricity to work. Just put it in the sun, turn on the water feed and you will get a slow but constant supply of very hot water.

Now this is all small-scale, but I see no reason why several of these panels could not be used together in some way, to meet a family's entire hot water needs. The idea of using reclaimed heat dispersal systems from old refrigerators is genius and I definitely think there is enough here to run with, and create something more large-scale.

Head over to The Sietch and check out their tutorial complete with lots of photos to help you along the way.

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(Photo from: The Sietch)