How to make a Hail Pad
You will need to start with four main materials

- Styrofoam
- Aluminum Foil
- Tape
- Volunteers
You will want 12” x 12” blocks of Styrofoam one inch thick. These can be obtained from either a local crafts store or a floral supply store in your area.
Aluminum Foil

You will need “Extra Heavy Duty” Aluminum Foil that is 18 inches wide. This may be hard to obtain, but some hardware stores do carry it. “Extra Heavy Duty”, is preferred, but “Heavy Duty” will do as a last resort.
Packaging tape will work just fine
Hail pad “parties” are great community service events for scouts, schools, clubs and other groups.
Additional Materials

The following materials will aid you in your hail pad production and the storing of your finished product . . .
Brown paper inserts

For those of you who are producing multiple hail pads you will want to make sure you have paper inserts to put between the stored pads. These inserts are ideal to protect your finished pads from dents and scratches.
Storage boxes

30”x13”x13” boxes are ideal to store your hail pads in. They hold 28 pads. You can find them at most office supply stores.
Hail report cards

You will want to make sure that you include one card for each hail pad. These forms can be downloaded off our Web site.
and don’t forget to feed your volunteers!

Studies now show that a pizza or sub sandwich can increase production as much as 20-30%. Well fed volunteers are happy volunteers!
Producing a hail pad

- Cutting
- Folding
- Taping
Cut your foil into 18” x 18” squares. This can be done with a sharp edged ruler.
Be sure to keep the foil smooth and wrinkle free!
Cutting the brown paper inserts

You will want to cut your box inserts into 12” x 12” squares
We are now ready to assemble our pads
A smooth soft surface

Place your sheet of foil on a smooth soft surface such as a t-shirt or cloth.

Make sure that the shiny side is face up!
(you will want the dull side on the outside face of the pad)
Placement of the foam

Place the foam square at the center of the aluminum foil
It’s almost like wrapping a present

Fold both sides up making sharp creases.  Carefully begin folding the corners.
Almost there!

Carefully crease the corners.  
Now fold over the end of the package.
Fold both edges

Make a sharp crease on the edge and then do the same for the other end of the pad.
The final touch

Tape the two outside edges of your pad. You may wish to tape all four.
Volia! You have made a hail pad!
Into the box

Place your finished hail pads in a box with paper inserted between each pad.
And that’s all that’s to it!

Be sure to include a hail report card with each pad
Once you have made your hail pads, you may wish to organize local pick up/drop points in your community.
What to do with your pads once you’ve had a hailstorm

Once you’ve put out your hail pad and have reported hail you will want to turn your pad in for analysis.

If there is a specific drop off point in your area, drop the pad off there. If there is not, then mail your pad to:

CoCoRaHS Hail Pad Analysis Center  
Colorado State University  
1371 Campus Delivery  
Fort Collins, CO 80523
You are now ready for your next hailstorm!
Thanks from your friends at CoCoRaHS