

## Bucket Pail Emoji Proposal

**Submitted by:** Malik Adan, Theo Schear, and Jennifer 8. Lee of Emojination.

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**Emoji Name:** Bucket

**Reference Emoji:** SCISSORS, WRENCH, TUMBLER GLASS

**Sort location:** Category: Household

We suggest that the BUCKET emoji appear after PILL 🍯 (No. 2143 U+1F48A)



*Aphelandra Messer/Emojination. Free for use in conjunction with this proposal.*

### Abstract

This proposal requests the addition of the BUCKET or PAIL emoji to the Unicode emoji library. Wooden and plastic buckets are a universal staple of households and communities worldwide. As a basic tool for containment, transport and survival, the bucket is endlessly useful. And, as one of the few ancient forms of containers that has not changed much over the centuries, buckets are not going anywhere anytime soon.

### Images

Considering issues of color blindness, we are suggesting three plastic bucket designs in different colors: blue, yellow and white. These colors are relatively color-blindness friendly for those affected by color blindness of varying degrees (Protanopia, Deutanopia, Tritanopia,

Monochromacy). We are also including a wooden bucket design, although we feel the plastic bucket is more recognizable and distinct. You can find our proposed designs below:



*Image Credit: Aphelandra Messer/Emojination. Free for use in conjunction with this proposal.*

## Introduction

The Narmer Palette, a carving dating back to 3200 BC, includes a depiction of an ancient Egyptian servant carrying a pail or bucket for the Pharaoh Narmer.<sup>1</sup> Early buckets are thought to be made from animal products, like leather. Wooden and metal buckets soon became the norm in industrial and domestic spaces. The first plastic pail was produced in 1967<sup>2</sup>, paving the way for the ubiquitous plastic 5-gallon bucket. Durable and endlessly useful, it has found a foothold across cultures, alongside metal pails.

From the local home improvement store to any home's pantry, home gardens to for-hire worker communities, industrial worksites to firehouses, shipping companies to manufacturing plants and developing nations, pails are found. Buckets are used to transport, store and prepare food. Survivalists, and 'preppers' exalt the 5-gallon bucket as a mainstay of any good emergency kit.<sup>3</sup> Metal 5-gallon buckets do much of the same work, but are often reserved for high intensity situations. These can include storing propane gas, extreme heat, and toxic material storage.

Beyond their practical usage, buckets have a foothold in popular culture. Terms like "drop buckets," (in reference to basketball shot-making), "raining buckets," (weather) and "kick the bucket," and "bucket list" (both in reference to dying) are all regularly used in casual conversation. In fact, those last two terms inspired a 2007 comedy starring Jack Nicholson and

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<sup>1</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Narmer\\_Palette#/media/File:Narmer\\_Palette.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Narmer_Palette#/media/File:Narmer_Palette.jpg)

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.pscionline.org/history.html>

<sup>3</sup> <http://fivegallonideas.com/emergency-kit/>

Morgan Freeman.<sup>4</sup> The ALS-oriented awareness campaign, #IceBucketChallenge, went viral in 2014 and 2015, sparking an inordinate amount of memes, stories and attention to this bucket-related activity.<sup>5</sup>

Buckets are a regular part of urban life when you look at busking. In the 1990's, Larry Wright, a street performer in New York, helped popularize and revolutionize busking with bucket drumming. While there's evidence to suggest that bucket drumming not new, Wright pushed the medium forward.<sup>6</sup> Improvising off of the classic drum kit design, he used various sizes and techniques to create a medley of sounds.<sup>7</sup> Since then, bucket drumming has become an accepted part of most subway systems and public spaces across the USA, and the world.

Considering the sheer utility of buckets or pails as a physical object, and their recognition as a cultural staple in terms of concept and culture, it makes sense to provide a bucket emoji to every person's arsenal of graphical conversation.

### **Sort location**

A. Category: object

B. Emoji before it in that category: After pill 🍬 (No. 2143 U+1F48A)

### **Identification (Names)**

A. CLDR short name: Bucket

B. CLDR keywords: Bucket | Pail | Cask | Vat

### **Reference Emoji:**

We compared BUCKET to SCISSORS, WRENCH, and TUMBLER GLASS

### **Selection Factors — Inclusion**

#### **A. Compatibility:**

There is currently no representation of a bucket on major digital platforms.

#### **B. Expected Usage Level**

##### **B1. Frequency**

The following Google Trends data shows that “bucket” spikes in search results during August 2014, coinciding with the viral #IceBucketChallenge:

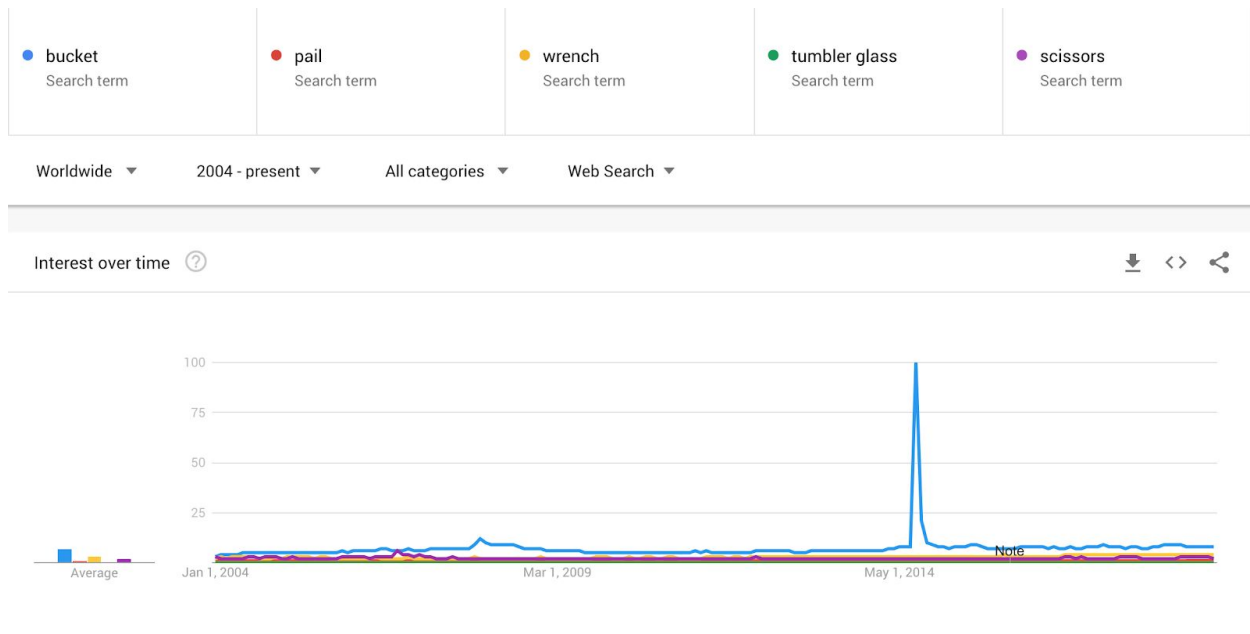
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<sup>4</sup> <https://slate.com/culture/2011/11/bucket-list-what-s-the-origin-of-the-term.html>

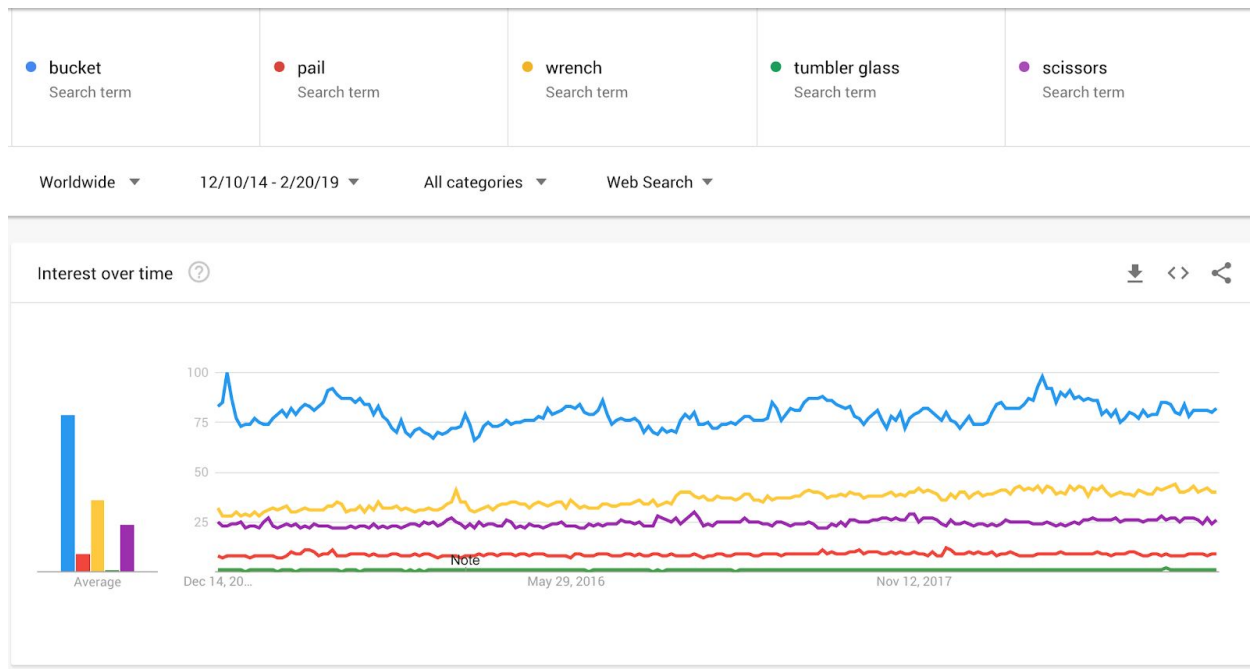
<sup>5</sup> <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/2017/07/03/ice-bucket-challenge-5-things-you-should-know/448006001/>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/1998/11/17/nyregion/public-lives-an-urban-folk-hero-captive-to-the-drums.html>

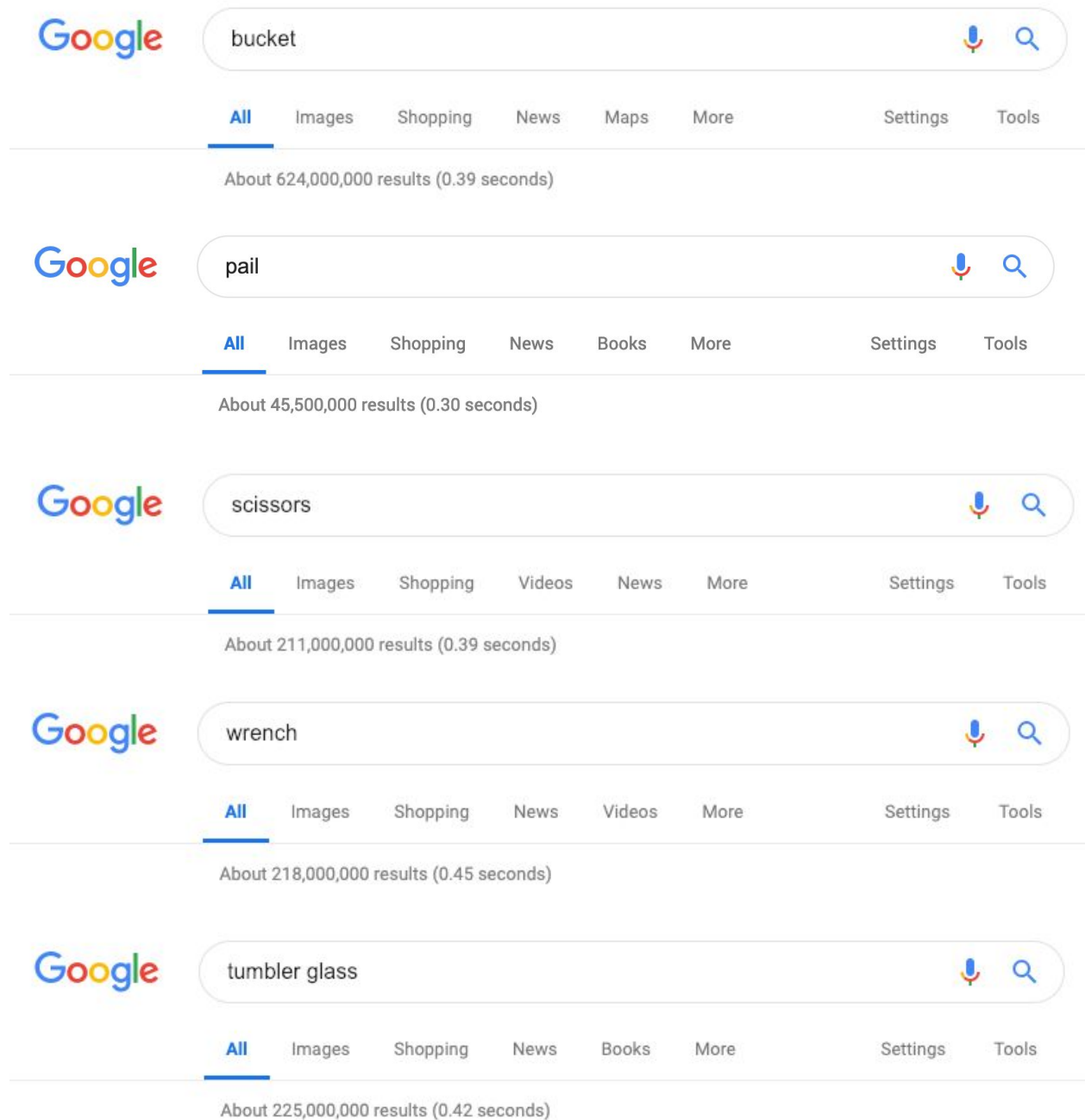
<sup>7</sup> <https://www.vox.com/2015/9/14/9323365/bucket-drumming>



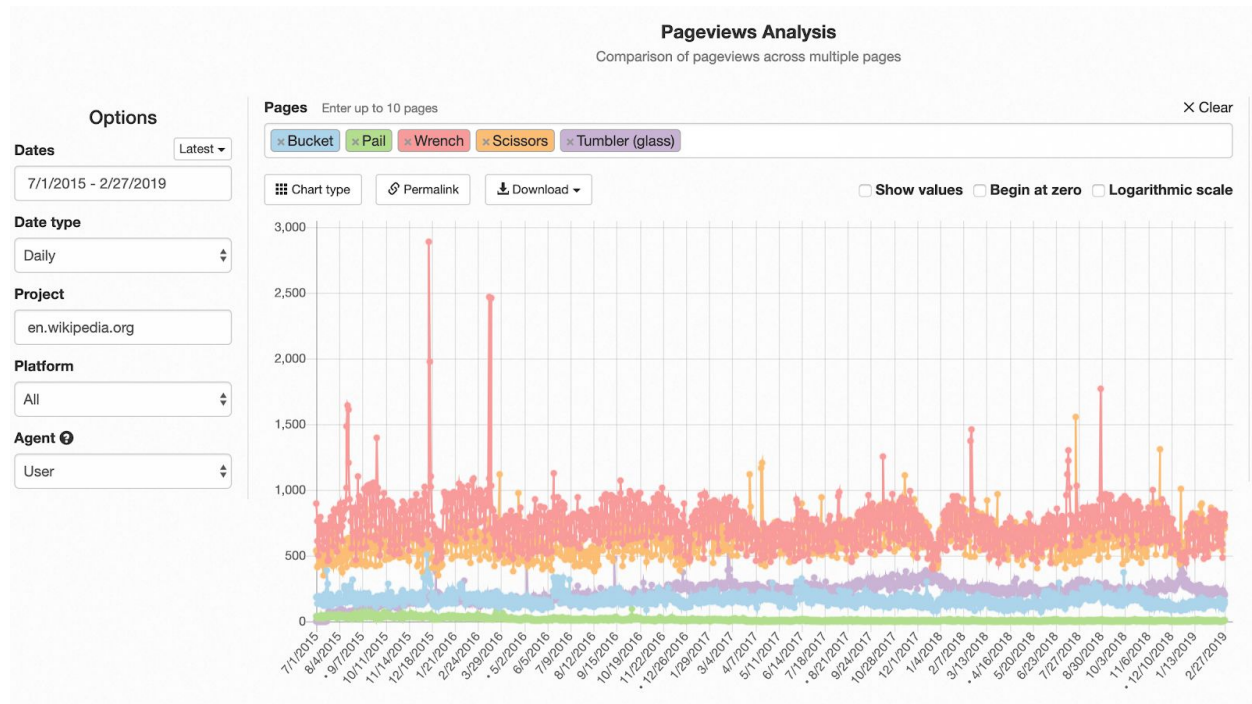
Before and since then, “bucket” has consistently delivered higher results than three comparable reference emoji - “wrench”, “scissors” and “tumbler glass”. The graph below is a magnification of data post 2014 #IceBucketChallenge, which shows the dominance of the term “bucket” even beyond the social media fad:



Google Search data shows that “bucket” delivers approximately 3X as many results each of the aforementioned reference emoji:



The Wikipedia Pageviews Analysis data shows “bucket” with comparable results to the three reference emoji as well:



## B2. Multiple Usages

In English, idioms like “drop buckets,” “raining buckets,” and “kick the bucket,” and “bucket list” are all common usages. Beyond those idiomatic usages, a bucket is used in gardening, painting, trash pickups. Anglers use buckets, florists use buckets, home brewers use buckets. Campers and survivalists use buckets for toilets and bathing and washing dishes (hopefully not the same bucket ...).

## B3. Use in Sequences

Some common sequences including the BUCKET emoji would be:

- 🪣💧 : a made basket in basketball (bucket could also be used alone in this situation)
- 🦶🪣 : Kick the bucket
- ☁️🪣 : Raining buckets
- 🪣📋 : Bucket list

## B4. Breaking New Ground

### C. Image Distinctiveness

While there are many buckets in the world, 5-gallon plastic and metal buckets offer a distinctive look. Utilizing the classic square or circular tub shape, with a metal handle, a bucket emoji is

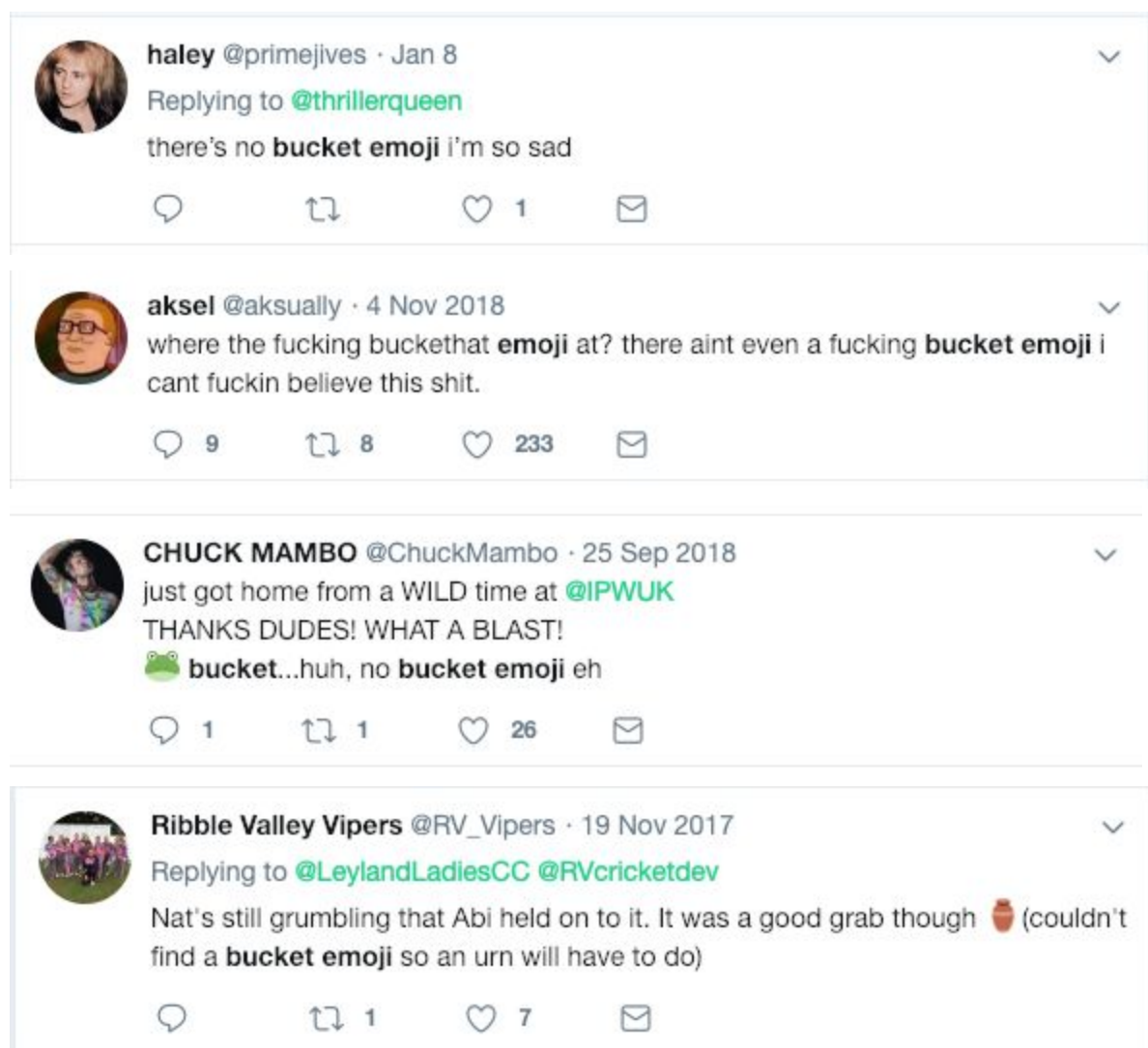
easily distinguished from other container emojis, including: package, wastebasket, basket, bowl, oil drum and pot.

## D. Completeness

The bucket emoji would add to the container family of objects currently live in Unicode 11, like the package, basket, bowl, oil drum and others. It would also be a trailblazing milestone on the road to other objects that aren't currently listed, including the barrel.

## E. Frequently Requested

Below is a sample of requests for a BUCKET emoji on Twitter:





**Graeme Manson**  @GraemeManson1 · 29 Jul 2017

Replying to @jinseulrene @lovatomaslany

k, u cry like a shower, fill up a 45 gal drum (no **bucket emoji**!) then a nice bottle of milk makes u feel better



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**kay** @KaileyDenai · 22 Nov 2016

@NofWill if there was a **bucket emoji**, i'd put it.

tag somebody @tagtuesdays

tag a baller 🙌



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**shubi** @ShubiiSharma · 14 Nov 2016

Where's the **bucket emoji** so I can put it beside these waste mans contacts  
Smfh



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 **RazzyLion**  @ZiasRazhiel · 12 Nov 2016

:msigh, twitter has no **bucket emoji**



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## **4. Selection Factors — Exclusion**

### **F. Overly Specific**

The overall design of a bucket remains consistent throughout most cultures worldwide. Although variations certainly exist, they are not visually dissimilar and their representation would be overly specific.

### **G. Open Ended**

A bucket emoji would be a unique addition to the Unicode Standard. There would be no obvious vacancies in the object category with the addition of the bucket emoji.

### **H. Already Representable**

Although package, wastebasket, basket, bowl, oil drum, urn and pot are all visually similar, the bucket has very different implications for use than all of them.

### **I. Logos, brands, UI icons, signage, specific people, deities**

The bucket cannot be trademarked because it is a universal tool.

### **J. Transient**

The visual design of a bucket has remained largely unchanged for more than 1,000 years. Modern buckets still maintain the same basic form and fundamental changes seem unlikely in the near future.

### **K. Faulty Comparison**

A bucket is a unique addition to the Unicode Standard.

### **L. Exact Images**

The proposed emoji does not require an exact image to be distinguishable. It allows for many variations in colour and style that will still be identifiable given the basic form.

## **Other Character Properties**

The other character properties are suggested to be defined as follows.

General Category: So

Canonical Combining Class: 0

Bidirectional Class: ON

Decomposition Type: Decomposition Mapping:

Numeric Type:

Numeric Value:

Bidirectional Mirrored: N Unicode 1 Name:

ISO Comment:

Simple Uppercase Mapping: Simple Lowercase Mapping: Simple Titlecase Mapping:

## Author Bios

**Malik Adán** ([malik@malikadan.com](mailto:malik@malikadan.com)) is a writer, producer and critic living in Oakland, CA. He's as passionate about communication as he is about mangoes. Maybe. Buckets are an excellent transportation mode for mangos.

**Theo Schear** ([tschear@gmail.com](mailto:tschear@gmail.com)) is an emoji enthusiast and bucket-getter from Oakland, CA who is noted for making a buzzer-beater in a rec-league basketball game that sent his team to the playoffs.<sup>8</sup> He is also known as the author of seminal think-piece *The Case For Full Court 1v1*.<sup>9</sup> Buckets!

**Jennifer 8. Lee** ([jenny@emojicon.co](mailto:jenny@emojicon.co)) is also an emoji enthusiast. She thinks this is a great emoji for many reasons.

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<sup>8</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Theo\\_Schear#Athletics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Theo_Schear#Athletics)

<sup>9</sup> <https://medium.com/@theoschear/the-case-for-full-court-1v1-6afa6427d0e3>