

Build a Birdbath

Have you ever seen a bird splashing about in water? Bathing is very important for birds - wet feathers makes them easier to preen. Preening is when birds rearrange their feathers and spread a special oil so they stay waterproof and trap a layer of air to keep them warm. A bird bath will help your local birds cool off in Summer, and stay waterproof and warm in Winter!

What you'll need:



Bricks or rocks



Some stones or gravel



Shallow, watertight container, around 10cm deep



Tap or rainwater

How to make your birdbath:

Step 1:

Choose a good spot for your bird bath where predators like cats can't hide and wait to pounce. Somewhere quite close to shrubs so that birds can dart off if they spot danger is good.

The perfect birdbath: shallow sloping sides; no more than 10cm deep; as wide as possible - ideally more than 30cm across. A dustbin lid or plant tray would work well.

Step 2:

If your bird bath is unstable, place bricks or large rocks underneath it to steady it so the water doesn't run out.

Step 3:

If your bird bath is slippery, birds might slip into the water. Adding a small amount of stones or gravel will give them a better grip.



A rock poking out of the water will help insects that fall in when they come to drink.

Step 4:

Fill your birdbath with tap or rainwater. Enjoy watching the birds that come to visit!



Top tip:

Birdbaths can spread infections so clean your bath once a week with an animal-safe disinfectant, using gloves. Top up your birdbath in hot weather, and keep it ice-free in Winter. Never use salt or de-icer - gently knock the ice out or pour in warm (not hot) water to melt it!