

Create a Pine Cone Bird Feeder

The Parks Trust
MILTON KEYNES

Encourage birds to your school playground, garden or balcony by making a simple natural bird feeder!

What you'll need:



Good-quality birdseed



Vegan fat (such as Trex) or lard



Pinecones



String



Scissors

How to make your bird feeder:

Step 1:

Cut a piece of string around 30cm long. Tie the string around the fatter end of your pinecone, slotting the string in the gaps in the cone to make sure it's secure.

Step 2:

Add 2 tablespoons of birdseed and 2 tablespoons of fat to a bowl.

Step 3:

Mix together using your hands or a spoon. This part gets a little messy so get stuck in! You can wear gloves if you don't like the feel of the mixture.

Step 4:

Once mixed, roll your pinecone in the mixture, pushing the food into the gaps and making sure it's nicely covered.

Step 5:

Tie your pinecone to a tree and watch as birds come to feed! Remove the string once the food is gone, the pinecone can be left to rot.



Top tip:

Only use this recipe in Winter, as the fat can spoil in hot weather. Wash your hands thoroughly after feeding the birds.

Create a Perched Bird Feeder



Scissors



Pencils, sticks or wooden spoons



Good-quality birdseed



String



Clean plastic bottle, crisp tube, milk bottle or juice carton

What you'll need:

How to make your bird feeder:

Step 1

Get an adult to help you make two holes about 2cm from the top of your container using the end of the scissors. Push your string through the hole and tie into a big loop.

Step 2

About 2cm and 4cm from the bottom of your container, make holes to post your perches through. Don't make them too big, otherwise the perches may fall out!

These need to cross through the middle of the container and poke out the other side to balance, in a rough cross-shape. Birds will sit on these to feed.

Step 3

Make 6 or 8 more holes towards the bottom of your container, near to the holes you made for your perches. These are where the birds will eat from. Remove any sharp bits and remember that they shouldn't be too big, otherwise the seeds will all fall out.

Step 4

Poke your perches through the holes you made for them.

Step 5

Fill your feeder with birdseed and hang up in a tree/on your balcony and see who comes to visit! Keep the lid on your container to keep your seed dry.



Top tip:

Keep your feeder clean by washing with soapy water every week or 2 to stop diseases spreading. Dry well before refilling.