

# Make your own bird feeder

## In ten easy steps!

Do you want more birds in your garden? Do you want to help the birds that you already have? Well, now is your chance! Here's how to make your very own bird feeder, to keep our feathered friends well-fed and ready for anything!

This activity involves some sharp tools, so it's important to **have an adult nearby**. The steps with the 'scissor' symbol are where you need to be extra-careful.



### You will need:

- A clean, empty carton
- A ruler
- A ballpoint pen
- Acrylic paints (and, of course, paintbrushes)
- Scissors or a craft knife
- String/wool
- Something to use as a perch. Possible things include a stick, chopsticks, or disposable spoons.

How to guides from





### Step 1:

Mark out the windows using the **ruler** and the **ballpoint pen**. The windows can be any shape you want. They could be on all sides of the carton, or just on two opposite sides. It's entirely up to you! Just remember to leave a gap between the window and the edge of the carton. Otherwise, your feeder will fall apart!

Make the windows quite big, so the birds will be able to reach the seed.



### Step 2:

Using scissors or a craft knife, cut out the windows. Be careful of your fingers!



### Step 3:



Using scissors or a craft knife, cut out holes where the perch will be inserted. Make sure that the holes are cut at the same height each side, otherwise the perch might just fall out! The perch is what the birds will land on, so put it near the bottom of the carton.



#### Step 4:



Using scissors or a craft knife, cut out holes for the string, from which the bird feeder will hang. Cut one hole on one side of the top of the carton, and the other on the other side of the carton.

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#### Step 5:

Use your acrylic paint to prime your carton. This just means you need to roughly paint the outside of the carton and allow it to dry.

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#### Step 6:

Decorate your bird feeder using the acrylic paints. Be as creative as you want!

Remember to wait for the paint to dry before moving onto the next step!

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#### Step 7:

Insert whatever you are using for a perch into the bird feeder. You might need to make the holes you cut earlier a little bit bigger for it to fit.

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### Step 8:

Tie the string/wool through the holes you cut in the top of the carton. Remember to make those knots nice and tight!

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### Step 9:

Fill your bird feeder with seed. **DO NOT USE WHOLE PEANUTS** during the nesting season. Whole peanuts can choke chicks being fed in the nest.

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### Step 10:

Hang your bird feeder (by the string/wool) outside, in a place that is off the ground. This could be from a garden fence, a tree branch, a bird feeding station, or even just a big stick!

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## Well done for finishing your bird feeder!

Send us a picture of the bird feeders you have made, and tell us what birds you see using them! It might take a few days for birds to use the feeder, but they will eventually! Please send your pictures to [yourpics@wild-ideas.org.uk](mailto:yourpics@wild-ideas.org.uk)

We've provided you with a picture guide to help you identify some of the birds you might see.

If you want to identify other species, go to <https://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/wildlifeguides/identify-a-bird/>

Species	Adult (s)	Chicks
Blue Tit		
Great Tit		
Coal Tit		
House Sparrow		
Chaffinch		
Dunnock/Hedge Sparrow		

Species	Adult (s)	Chicks
Blackbird	 <p>Male</p> <p>Female</p>	
Bullfinch	 <p>Male</p> <p>Female</p>	
Goldfinch		
Siskin	 <p>Female</p> <p>Male</p>	
Greenfinch	 <p>Male</p> <p>Female</p>	
Robin		