

How to make a Bird Cake Feeder

Difficulty level: Easy

What it's for

Birds will be stocking up for winter. The simple bird feeders below and overleaf will help them, then you can sit back and watch them at work. They are perfect for decorating, so get creative!

The feeders can also be hung using a suction cup or command hook outside a window. You can also use more durable materials if you prefer, though heavier materials may require using some nails, bolts or screws to hang them.

What you will need

Any or all of the following:

- Sunflower seeds
- Peanuts (unsalted and chopped) and other birdseed mixes
- Dried fruits, chopped and softened with water
- Crumbled or grated cheese
- Cooked rice and other leftovers
- Breadcrumbs

- Softened lard or dripping
- An empty yogurt pot or coconut shell*
- String and scissors

* You can upcycle or recycle all sorts of other objects too, such as wellies, baked bean tins, or even an old teacup!

How to build it

1. Combine the ingredients in a bowl with the melted lard or dripping and use a wooden spoon, or preferably your hands, to mix it into a fine and sticky paste.
2. If using a yogurt pot, pierce a hole in the top poke some string through it. Tie a knot on the inside of the pot so that it hangs upside down. Fill the pot with the mixture (it should be sticky enough not to fall out) and hang it outside.
3. If using a coconut shell, make two small holes close together on the same edge of the shell. Take a piece of string, thread one end through each hole (from the outside in) and tie the ends in a knot so that the shell hangs like a swing. Fill the shell with the mixture and hang it outside.

Don't forget to share your Bird Feeder on social media using the hashtag [#WildAbbeyfield](https://www.instagram.com/WildAbbeyfield).





How to make a Recycled Bird Feeder

Difficulty level: Easy

What you will need

- Empty juice or milk carton or bottle – at least 1 litre/two pints
- Bird seed mix, or some of the ingredients listed for the bird cake feeder
- Long, thin twigs
- Scissors or a sharp knife

How to build it

1. Cut large, square windows into the sides of the carton, about halfway up – the larger your carton and windows, the larger the birds can be.
2. Pierce holes underneath the windows on opposite sides and thread a twig through to make a perch. You can then add more perches, but make sure that the holes are slightly lower down than the first perch. If using a carton with a handle, you may need to remove it first.

3. Pierce two more holes through the lip of the carton and thread the string through.
4. Fill it with bird seed mix and use the open ends of the string to hang it outside.
5. Make sure to top it up regularly if the seed level becomes too low for the birds to reach.

Squirrel-proofing

Squirrels are perfectly adapted to raiding bird feeders! Use these tips to outwit them:

- Feeders on a pole – mix chilli powder with Vaseline and smear it over the pole. The squirrels won't like the taste of the chilli when they clean it off their fur. Try not to get too much chilli on the bird seed!
- Feeders hanging from a line or tree - thread short lengths of hose or old plastic bottles onto the line or branch either side of the feeder. They will spin when a squirrel tries to scurry along them.

