



WOW!

More than 50 million Americans put out a billion pounds of bird seed every year.



Recycle to make a bird feeder

What you need

- Recycled plastic tennis ball container or metal coffee can
- Permanent marker
- Chopstick or small twig
- Pushpin and nail
- Scissors
- String
- Can opener
- Acrylic craft paint
- Paintbrush
- Hot glue gun
- Bird seed

Instructions

1. To make a bird feeder out of a tennis ball container, first make “perches” for the birds to stand on as they eat. With the marker, make two dots across from each other on the container. With adult supervision, use a pushpin to pierce each dot to make a hole, then carefully poke with the nail to enlarge.
2. Continuing with an adult’s help, rotate the tip of a scissors’ blade to enlarge holes just enough to stick a chopstick or twig in. Push chopstick or twig through the holes, so it extends a few inches from each side of container.

3. Use the same hole-punching technique to create a small feeding hole about 1¼ inch above each perch. The holes should be taller than they are wide, an upright oval about ¼-inch tall and ⅛-inch wide.
4. With adult supervision, punch two more holes across from each other at the very top of the container for the string. Thread string into each hole and knot each end.
5. To make a bird feeder from a coffee can, start by using the can opener to remove the can bottom. Cut the can’s plastic lid in half.

6. Paint the outside of the coffee can any way you’d like. (Prime it first if you’d like, to cover any printing on the can.) Let dry.
7. Place the plastic lid halves on either side of the can, lining them up with each other. Use hot glue to secure them into place. Cut a piece of string to your desired length. Thread it through inside the can and knot it.
8. Pick a spot where birds will be safe from predators while they perch and eat. Fill your bird feeders with seeds, then hang them spaced well apart, at eye level or slightly above.



ECO TIP OF THE WEEK BREAK OUT YOUR BIKE

As the weather warms up, consider riding your bike more often to get around your neighborhood instead of asking family members to drive you places. By hopping on a bike, you’ll be getting fresh air and exercise and helping the environment too. Unlike motor vehicles, bicycles don’t use up resources like gas and fuel or cause air or noise pollution. You could consider asking other kids in your neighborhood if they would like to bike to school, into town, or to weekend activities with you. Be sure to wear a helmet, obey traffic laws, bring a bottle of water, and lock up your bike safely at your destination.

Grab your bike to get around.

