

Get crafting



#30DaysWild

Indoor and outdoor crafts are great ways to express yourself and bring out your wild side. They can also benefit wildlife, by providing them with a meal or a home to live. We've got a few ideas here for you to try. If you're looking for even more wildlife crafts, try designing a [nature mandala](#), making a [nest box](#) or creating your own [egg carton creatures](#).

Build a toad abode



Despite their ancient associations with witches and warty appearance, these lovely amphibians are a gardener's best friend, feeding on slugs and snails. This is an activity for the whole family requiring adult supervision, and creations can range from practical, no-fuss toad houses to havens fit for fairies!

What to do

1. The first thing you need to do is create an entryway to your toad home! Here's 3 ways to do this:
 - a. Lay your pot horizontally so that it's half dug into the ground, half out, creating a cave.
 - b. Carve a doorway in an upturned pot - this is much easier with a plastic pot! If you are using clay pot, it may be easier to 'smash' a section of the rim creating an entryway. Be careful!
 - c. Upturn your pot on to a circle of rocks and make the doorway by removing one or two of the rocks.
2. Once you've got your entryway sorted, you can start decorating. This is the really fun bit, so get creative!
3. Pick a shady spot close to a water source in your garden for your toad abode.
4. If your pot is big enough, dig it slightly into the ground to prevent it falling over. If not, then place your heavy rock or brick on top.
5. Wait for your residents to move in!



You will need

1. An old plant-pot (any material will work, but clay pots are cooler in summer)
2. A heavy rock or brick
3. Materials for decorating, this can be whatever you have laying around! Here's some ideas:
 - o Paint or markers
 - o Glue gun
 - o Moss
 - o Shells
 - o Lollipop sticks for a makeshift picket-fence or for constructing a 'welcome' sign



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Sometimes it's nice to just switch off and get crafty... I love combining my love of nature with being creative, and it's even better when you can help wildlife in the process!

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Jo, crafter



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Make an apple feeder

Tits and finches love sunflower seeds and they'll enjoy the apple, too! This is a really simple activity that children can try, they'll just need help from an adult making the hole in the apple.

You will need

- An apple
- An apple corer or skewer
- Sunflower seeds
- String
- A thin stick

What to do

1. Make a hole through the middle of the apple using the apple corer or skewer.
2. Thread some string through the hole and tie the bottom end to the middle of the stick.
3. Push the sunflower seeds into the apple.
4. Tie the string to a branch and watch as the birds flock to their tasty snack!



Nature dreamcatcher

You will need

- 3 straight, sturdy twigs of equal lengths
- String, wool or twine
- Feathers and other natural objects such as lavender or leaves

What to do

1. Lay the twigs as a triangle and tie the corners together where they cross, trimming off any excess.
2. Create a pattern of your choice inside the triangle using your string. You can make it as simple or as complex as you like.
3. Once you're happy with the pattern inside your dreamcatcher, you can start adding more natural objects and decorating it! You could:
 - o Tie lengths of string to the bottom of your triangle and attach leaves, feathers and shells.
 - o Weave aromatic herbs into your string pattern for a lovely scent.



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