

Crafts and Projects Using Recycled Materials

Milk Carton Bird House



What you need:

- Milk carton
- Stapler and staples
- Masking tape
- A soft cloth, rag or chamois
- Brown paint (acrylic is best) watered down
- Scissors or a knife (and adult assistance)
- Twine

What to do:

1. Clean and dry the milk carton thoroughly. Staple the top of the carton shut.
2. Tear off small pieces of masking tape and cover the entire carton with the pieces of tape.
3. Using a soft cloth, rub brown paint all over the tape-covered carton. This will give the carton a rough, bark-like finish.
4. Cut a hole (WITH ADULT ASSISTANCE) about 4" above the bottom of the carton. The hole should be approximately 1" to 1 ½" in diameter. This hole is for the birds to get in and out of the house.
5. Poke a few drainage holes in the bottom of the carton and two ventilation holes in the top of the carton.
6. Poke a hole through the top of the feeder, string a piece of twine through the hole and hang your feeder on a tree.

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Suncatcher Craft



What do you do with unwanted CDs that clutter up your room? You can turn them into a fun recycling project that will add sparkle to your home.

What you need:

- Junk CDs
- Craft glue
- Things that sparkle or are colorful (rhinestones, beads, glitter, sequins, etc.)
- Monofilament fishing line
- Scissors
- Newspaper

What to do:

1. Before getting to work, cover your work surface with newspaper.
2. Plastic is not the easiest surface when it comes to gluing things down. Test the glue on one CD by gluing a rhinestone or one of the larger, heavier decorations in place. If this glue works, call in the young artist! If not, try a different glue.
3. Give your child a CD and then let her get creative with the decorations. She can create a sparkly design, styling her suncatcher with flowers, suns, or faces. Or she can create a more abstract pattern. Let the glue dry.
4. When the glue has dried, pick up the suncatcher. Be ready to catch anything that was not glued down well. Re-glue anything that is not secure. Again, let the glue dry.
5. Turn the disk over and decorate the second side. Again, let the glue dry and then test the suncatcher to see if everything is secure.
6. Cut a two-foot length of monofilament and tie it through the disk. Now find a place where people will be able to admire the suncatcher. Only hang the suncatchers outside if you have used a glue that is not water-soluble.

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Milk Bottle Bird Feeders



What you need:

- An empty 2 Litre milk container
- Twine
- Chopstick
- Scissors
- Box cutter (optional)
- Birdseed
- Markers or paint (optional)

What to do:

1. Rinse and dry your milk container thoroughly.
2. On one non-handle side of the container, use your marker to draw openings where the birds can access the bird seed. Also mark where you want to insert the chopstick, which will act as a perch for your feathered friends.
3. Use scissors to cut out the door and hole for the perch; you can use a box cutter to score the center of your cut-outs as needed to make it easier to cut into the plastic. Insert chopstick into perch holes.
4. Remove lid of the container and tie twine, strong string, or thin wire around the base of the neck just under the cap's threading and tie; replace cap.
5. Decorate with markers or paint, if desired.
6. Fill with bird seed, hang from a tree branch or from a hook on the eave of your roof and watch birds coming to feed.

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Recycled Sports Drink Piggy Bank



What you need:

- Sports drink bottle, cleaned and dried
- Construction paper scraps
- Curling ribbon
- 4 water bottle or soda bottle caps, cleaned and dried
- Scissors – Glue - Hole punch

What to do:

1. Set your sports drink bottle on its side and cut an opening in the center of the “back” where your money will go. Cut two slits to insert ears as well, closer to the bottle cap. Set the bottle aside.
2. Using construction paper, cut out two leaf shapes with a tab at the bottom to create your piggy’s ears. Cut two smaller leaf shapes as the inner part of the ears. Glue together.
3. Using your bottle cap as a template, trace and cut a circle shape from your paper scraps and glue to the top of the cap.
4. Using your hole punch, punch out four small circles from your construction paper. Glue two to the bottle cap to create nostrils. Glue the other two to the bottle for eyes.
5. Insert the ears into the ear slots.
6. Curl a small length of ribbon and glue to the bottom of your bottle to form a tail.
7. Adhere bottle caps to the bottom of the ‘piggy’ to form ‘feet’. Allow to dry and start filling with coins!

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Milk Carton Houses



What you need:

- Milk, juice, or cream cartons (different sizes)
- White acrylic paint, gesso, or white latex house paint
- Pencils
- Paintbrushes
- Tempera or acrylic paint
- Optional: construction paper, scissors, and glue
- Containers for water
- A covered work area

What to do:

1. Cover the cartons with white acrylic, gesso, or latex house paint. Let dry. (Optional: wrap the milk carton with paper -- like a present).
2. Paint the carton (using tempera paint) to look like a house. (Optional: Glue construction paper windows, doors, etc. onto the carton).
3. Draw windows, doors etc. onto the carton.
4. Add construction paper embellishments.
5. Make several houses and you have a village.