

How to make a bird feeder from a plastic bottle

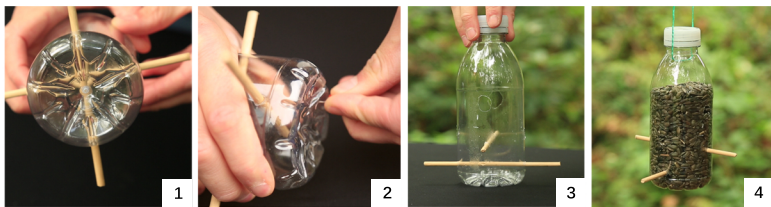
Bird feeders are an incredible way to get a close look at birds in order to identify the species that regularly visit your garden or local nature reserve. There are plenty of bird feeders available to buy, but you can save money by making one from materials lying around your house and garden.

Making your bird feeder

1. Make the perches. Towards the bottom of the bottle, use a drawing pin to make two holes on opposite sides. Use the pair of scissors to widen the holes to a width just smaller than the width of your first stick or rod. Push the first stick through both holes to form the first perch. Do the same higher up the bottle for the second perch, but have the new set of holes at a 90° angle to the first.

You will need

- Plastic bottle with cap, clean and dry
- String or twine
- Two sticks, dowel rods or pencils
- Some bird seed
- Drawing pin
- Sharp scissors



2. Drainage. Make some drainage holes in the bottom of the bottle using the drawing pin and scissors. **3. Feeding holes.** About 4 cm above each perch, use the drawing pin to make a slight hole and widen it by cutting a hole with the scissors. These will be the feeding holes. The holes should be 7 to 8 mm in width, though this will change depending on the size of the bird seed you use. **4. Hang the feeder up.** Towards the neck of the bottle, make two more holes opposite one another, and thread a length of string through the holes, which will then be used to hang the feeder up. Pour in your bird seed and put the lid on the bottle and you're ready to hang up the bird feeder in a tree or other suitable point of attachment, like a washing line.



Watch the video

Either visit
EcoSapien.org
or scan the QR code



Let us know what birds
visit your feeder!

Site and Maintenance

Prime location: Hang your bird feeder in a place where it's not easily accessed by predators such as cats. Also beware of birds flying into windows - if this happens you should move your feeder as soon as possible.

Keep it clean: Make sure you regularly clean your bird feeder to prevent the spread of disease (once a month or sooner if they look especially messy). The RSPB recommends using a 5% disinfectant solution. Clean the feeder outside, not in your kitchen sink! Also clean out the feeder if the food becomes mouldy and check your drainage holes are still open. Alternatively, simply build a new feeder and recycle the old bottle.