

# Making a Birdhouse



There are lots of items you can find around the home to create a bird box with. Old plastic bottles, old boots, ice cream sticks, milk or juice cartons, bamboo, sticks from the backyard, tin can, terracotta pot with wood cover or PVC pipe are just a few items you might have at home. Below are instructions on how to make a birdhouse from a milk or juice carton but you can adapt these to suit anything you use.



## Birdhouse instructions

First, brainstorm a few minimum requirements, such as the size of door to the house, what you will use as a perch and what to hang it with so that cats and dogs can't reach it. Look around your house and outside for materials that you might use. Think about the inside too, you might like to provide some nesting material for your bird. Gather your items together with some scissors and glue or paint (if you are adding decorations to the outside) Cut out a hole for the bird to enter and then insert your perch so the bird has something inside and outside to sit on. You may need to make a hole in the top of the container if you intend to hang your birdhouse up.

**House:** a cardboard or plastic milk or juice carton

**Perch:** a chopstick, a stick, a dowel, a wooden spoon

**Something to hang it:** a bent wire hanger, twine

**Roof:** ice cream sticks, bamboo plate, sticks

**Decorations:** paint, sticks or leaves

## Bird Box Tips

- Be sure the birdhouse opening is the right size for the species you wish to attract. If the opening is too large, predators will have easy access to the nest
- Provide nesting material, such as dry grass, twigs, cotton balls, paper strips, fur, wool, dry leaves
- Choose natural colours to decorate with so the birdhouse blends into the surroundings, like browns and dark shades of green. No need to paint the inside
- Make sure there is water nearby, in a shallow dish somewhere up high
- You could also provide food for birds, such as seeds like sunflower seeds, broken corn, broken peanuts, golden millet, canary seeds
- Place your bird box and any food or water in the shade

