

4 Earth Day inspired crafts using up-cycled materials



At Festival of The Girl we love to support other great causes too, and Earth Day, which takes place in April of each year, is one we can definitely get behind.

Here are our four of our favourite Earth Day inspired craft ideas which we think you'll love.

1. Repurpose old crayons

Here's an idea for that box of old 'once loved' broken crayons that you can't bring yourself to throw away. Use this method to breathe new life into them as crayons or to repurpose them as colourful ornaments, decorations and gifts:

Step one:

Preheat your oven to 120°C.

Step two:

Peel the wrappers off and break the crayons into small pieces. Add them to the cups of a muffin/fairy cake tray. The more crayon pieces you add, the thicker the final crayons will be.

Step three:

Bake them at 120°C for 15-20 minutes, until the crayons are melted.

Step four:

With an adult, carefully remove the tray from the oven. Allow the crayons to cool in the tray on the worktop and then put them in the fridge for 30 minutes.

Step five:

Remove the crayons from the fridge, turn the tin upside down and give it a whack to pop the crayons out.

Extra tips:

You can also turn your crayon creations into candles, or use letter moulds to spell out your name, or the names of your friends.

And for a bit of 'Earth Day' inspiration use just blue and green crayons to turn your creations into little planet earths.

Courtesy of www.thegunnysack.com





2. Make your own seed bombs

Create these fun homemade seed bombs using old paper destined for the recycled bin (the more colourful the better!) and a packet of flower seeds.

Step one:

Tear recycled paper into small pieces and half fill a jug with it. Add water to the jug, up to the same level (about halfway).

Step two

Pour the contents of the jug into a blender and mix until you've created a wet mush.

Step three

Strain or squeeze the mixture until excess water has been removed. The mixture should be a mushy consistency which holds together.

Step four

Add your flower seeds and blend together by hand.

Step five

Fill moulds of your choice with the mushy seed mixture. You could use an ice cube tray, a fairy cake tray or ramekin dishes; or simply mould them in your hands. Let them dry for 24hrs.

Step six

Plant them in your garden or put them into small paper bags and give them as a great gift idea.

Courtesy of www.weareteachers.com



Image credit: Etsy



Image credit: www.thisgrandmaisfun.com



3. Tin can stationery caddies

Use this idea to create bright storage containers for your pens, pencils and other stationery or craft supplies.

Step one

Remove the paper wrap from your leftover food cans and give them a good clean. Ask an adult to help make sure there aren't any sharp edges.

Step two

Paint the cans in your favourite colours. Eco-friendly spray paint or a 'kids air brush kit' work great, but any paint will do. Leave to dry for 24hrs.

Voila! You now have a cool stationery caddy. Fill them up with your stationery and craft accessories.

Courtesy of www.sandytoesandpopsicles.com



Image credit: www.sandytoesandpopsicles.com



Image credit: www.sandytoesandpopsicles.com



4. Make a hedgehog house

One for getting some fresh autumnal air. Hedgehogs will often use a house like this for hibernating through the winter or for nesting and raising a litter of hoglets in the summer.

What you need:

- Gloves
- Old bricks (approx. 30)
- Sheet of wood (or paving slab)
- Logs
- Spade



NB. Try to avoid buying brand-new materials for this project. If there are any materials you're missing try asking people in your local area whether they have any. People will often have old bricks or dry wood lying around that they will be happy for you to use.

Step one

Find a quiet (ideally shady) spot in your garden. An area close to a garden boundary is ideal, such as at the foot of a wall or fence.

Step two

Put on your gloves and dig a hole (approx. 7cm deep and 45cm wide x 45cm long). Fill the hole with a thin layer of leaf litter - dead plant material such as leaves, twigs and bark that have fallen to the ground.

Step three

Lay the bricks around the hole, ensuring you leave a gap for the entrance and that it faces southwest. As you build up the walls make sure you overlap the bricks to keep the structure stable. Do this until you have three layers of bricks.

Step four

Create the entrance tunnel by positioning 2 bricks (on top of each other) facing outwards, then place two bricks across the top to enclose the tunnel.

Step five

Place a sheet of wood (or paving slab) on top of the house for the roof. Then stack logs on top of it to weigh it down (this prevents predators, such as cats, from removing it). Add more logs at the sides of the house for camouflage and to help attract insects, which are an important food source for hedgehogs. You can also add leaf litter for more camouflage.

Step six

The house is now ready for a hedgehog to move in. Try to leave this area of the garden undisturbed, but you could leave a twig across the entrance – that way if it moves, you'll know an animal has likely visited the house.

Courtesy of The Natural History Museum

For a step by step video go to www.nhm.ac.uk/discover/how-to-make-a-hedgehog-house

HAVE FUN!

