



**THE BIG  
GIVE  
BACK  
TO ANIMALS**

# Winter Activity Pack

From hedgehog houses and bird feeders to acts of kindness;  
get stuck in to our winter activities.



Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals  
Parkside, Chart Way, Horsham RH12 1GY ■ 0300 1230 100 ■ [rspca.org.uk](http://rspca.org.uk)  
Patron: HM King Charles III ■ We exist to inspire everyone to create a better world for every animal  
f [facebook.com/RSPCA](https://facebook.com/RSPCA) x [x.com/RSPCA\\_official](https://x.com/RSPCA_official) @ [instagram.com/rspca\\_official](https://instagram.com/rspca_official)  
t [tiktok.com/@rspca\\_official](https://tiktok.com/@rspca_official) l [linkedin.com/company/rspca](https://linkedin.com/company/rspca)  
The RSPCA helps animals in England and Wales ■ Registered charity no. 219099  
The RSPCA only exists with the support of public donations © RSPCA 2025. All rights reserved.

# How to build a hedgehog house

Help hedgehogs thrive this winter by crafting their very own hedgehog home! Somewhere safe and sheltered after a night of snuffling around for food.

## BEFORE YOU GET STARTED

### What you will need

- 20 to 30 old bricks
- A couple of paving slabs or tiles – one small, one larger
- Tape measure, to check entrance size
- Soil, logs and leaves collected from your garden
- Gardening gloves

#### Top Tip

To find out if your house is being used, try an old spy trick. Put a small twig across the entrance – if it's moved, someone's been there!

## METHOD

### Instructions



#### 1 Create the shape of the house in bricks

In a shady, quiet spot, create the shape of the house in bricks. Include an entrance 'tunnel' at the front (make this around 13cm wide so the hedgehog can get inside but other animals can't).



#### 2 Overlap bricks to make walls stronger

Add another layer of bricks. Overlap the bricks to make the walls stronger.



#### 3 Add a third layer of bricks

Add a third layer of bricks to the main house. Be careful not to leave any gaps – it needs to be cosy.



#### 4 Cover the top of the tunnel

Use the smaller paving slab – or two or three bricks crossways – to cover the top of the tunnel.

Get a grown up to help you add the heavy paving slab 'roof' to keep out predators like foxes and badgers. Watch your fingers!



#### 5 Cover the top and sides with leaves

Cover the top and sides with soil, logs and leaves. This keeps the house warm and attracts yummy insects.



#### 6 Use leaves for bedding

Add a pile of leaves nearby – a hog can use them for bedding.

# Make eco bird feeders

These brilliant bird feeders are made from easy-to-find, natural materials. Hang them in sheltered spaces at home or school and keep them topped up with food. Don't forget to leave out a dish of clean water. Eating bird seed is thirsty work.



## BEFORE YOU GET STARTED

### What you will need

- Twigs and branches
- Natural string (a kind of rough, brown sting available from craft shops and garden centres)
- An orange
- Cardboard egg carton
- Cardboard toilet roll
- Peanut butter (check it doesn't contain xylitol, which is poisonous to birds)
- Strong kitchen scissors or garden secateurs
- Seed mix for wild birds (check the packet to see what sort of birds the seed will attract.)
- Pencil (for poking holes)

## METHOD

### How to make an egg box buffet

1

#### Add holes to the egg box

Take the bottom half of an egg box. Make two holes in the cardboard 'cones' (or in each of the corners).



# Make eco bird feeders

## METHOD

### How to make a swinging orange feeder

**1**

#### Scoop out the orange

Scoop the fruit out from half an orange (and eat it, yum!).

**2**

#### Add holes

Using a pencil, poke four holes opposite each other around the edge of the half an orange.

**3**

#### Thread the sticks

Thread sticks and string through the holes.

**4**

#### Tie a knot

Gather the ends of string together and make a knot.

**5**

#### Fill the orange cup

Fill the orange cup with bird seed and hang from a tree. You could also add small pieces of cheese, cooked pasta or rice, boiled potatoes or uncooked and unsalted bacon rind.



# How to make a Christmas wreath

Decorate your room, front door or garden with a homemade Christmas wreath! You'll find most of the things you need when you're out and about – but don't collect too much from one area (save some for the animals!), and be careful not to disturb wildlife.



## BEFORE YOU GET STARTED

### What you will need

- A collection of bendy twigs (thin enough to cut with kitchen scissors)
- Ribbon, or thin lengths of fabric straps sewn or knotted together
- String
- A selection from this list (whatever you find on your walks or in the garden):
  - Seed heads; dry grasses, leaves and flower heads;
  - holly and holly berries; ivy;
  - rose hips; small pine cones

#### Top Tip

If you're using holly, using gloves will protect you from prickles!

## METHOD

### Instructions



**1** Take two or three bendy twigs and tie them together at each end. Do the same again, to create two sets.



**2** Tie the two sets together to create a circle.



**3** You could tie in stray twigs at the joins, to make your wreath stronger.



**4** Wrap lengths of holly around your wreath, tucking the ends into the gaps in the twigs.



**5** Weave a long length of ribbon, or fabric, around your wreath in the same way.



**6** Use the end to make a loop to hang up your wreath.



**7** Now decorate your wreath by poking seed heads, dried leaves and flowers into the gaps between twigs.



**8** Hang it up where everyone can admire it!