

How to Make Bird Houses From Gourds

By [Kathryn Hatter](#), eHow Contributor
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Make an attractive birdhouse from a gourd.

Provide your feathered friends with a warm and cozy home in a gourd [birdhouse](#). Gourds make ideal birdhouses for a variety of different birds. The size of the gourd and the size of the entrance hole will determine the kind of bird that comes to make its home in the birdhouse. Construct birdhouses out of gourds using simple materials and tools and hang them in prominent places in your yard.

Difficulty: Moderate

Instructions

Things You'll Need:

- 1 Gourd (6 to 12 inches in diameter, depending on the bird you want to attract)
- 2 Bleach
- 3 Water
- 4 Bucket
- 5 Plastic gloves
- 6 Safety glasses
- 7 Sandpaper
- 8 Wire brush

- 9 Pencil
- 10 Drill
- 11 Expansion bit
- 12 Knife and spoon
- 13 3/8-inch and 1/4-inch drill bits
- 14 Jute twine
- 15 Scissors
- 16 Primer (oil-based)
- 17 White enamel paint
- 18 Paintbrush

1

Select a gourd for the birdhouse. A 6-inch diameter gourd is suitable for small birds such as wrens. An 8-inch gourd is suitable for chickadees, nuthatches and small woodpeckers. A 10 to 12-inch gourd is suitable for small owls, purple martins and large woodpeckers.

2

Wash the outside of the gourd with water. Scrub the gourd with a wire brush. Allow the gourd to dry completely after washing.

3

Put on the gloves and the [safety glasses](#). Mix one part bleach to nine parts of water in a bucket to have enough bleach solution to submerge the gourd. Place the gourd into the bucket and soak it for 15 minutes. Remove the gourd from the bucket and set it in a place where it can dry completely. Do not proceed until the gourd is completely dry.

4

Draw a hole onto the side of the gourd where you want the entrance. Position the hole slightly higher than the center point of the gourd. A small bird needs a 1-inch hole. A medium size bird needs a 1.25-inch hole. A larger bird needs a 1.5- to 2.5-inch hole.

5

Use the drill fitted with the expansion bit to make the entrance hole in the spot drawn in Step 4.

6

Remove the seeds and membranes from the inside of the gourd with a spoon and a sharp [knife](#).

7

Drill two holes at the top of the gourd with the 1/4-inch drill bit for hanging the gourd. Drill five holes at various places along the bottom of the gourd with the 3/8-inch drill bit for drainage.

8

Sand the exterior of the gourd with the sandpaper to prepare the surface for painting. Paint the exterior of the gourd with the primer first and allow it to dry completely. Paint the exterior of the gourd with the white enamel paint and allow it to dry completely.

9

Cut a length of jute twine that is long enough to pass through the upper holes and hang the birdhouse in the desired spot. Insert one end of the twine through both holes and then tie the ends together in a secure knot. Hang the birdhouse from a hook or a tree branch.

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