

Earth Day: Make Biodegradable Plant Pots



Have a go at making biodegradable plant pots, using recycled household materials.

Step 1: Find reusable materials around your house

Gather up household materials to make plant pots from. Suitable materials include:

- Empty toilet roll tubes
- Traditional egg cartons
- Newspaper

'Biodegradable' means that the material will naturally decompose over a period of time. Which household materials do you think are NOT biodegradable?

Step 2: Make a newspaper pot

Toilet rolls and egg cartons can be used as they are, as they are the right shape for holding compost and seeds. Place the carton on a tray or surface that is ok to get a little wet and dirty. If you are using toilet roll tubes

If you are going to use newspapers, you will need to do a little more work to turn them into pots. Follow the steps on the next page to make your own newspaper plant pots.



- a) Take a full, double page spread of newspaper and lay it flat on the ground. Smooth out the bumps.
- b) Fold the newspaper in half lengthways. Then fold lengthways for a second time. This will leave you with a long, narrow strip of newspaper.
- c) Find a straight-sided glass or ceramic jar and place it lying on its side at one end of the length of paper.
- d) Roll the jar along the newspaper, wrapping the paper around it as you go.
- e) Press the ends of the paper into the open end of the jar. Don't worry about making it neat – you are just using the jar to form the right shape for your plant pot.
- f) Pull the jar out of the newspaper and you will be left with a newspaper pot.
- g) Carefully push the jar back into the newspaper pot, so that the bottom of the jar squashes down the paper bottom inside. Your recycled plant pot is ready!

Step 3:

Fill your chosen pot (egg carton, toilet roll tubes or handmade newspaper pot) with compost. If you are using toilet rolls, remember to stand them up right in a tray to stop the compost falling out of the bottom! Using your index finger or the end of a utensil, poke a small hole into the top of the compost – one hole per egg dip if using a carton.

Step 4:

Carefully add your seeds to each hole you have made and then cover them with compost. Gently water your seeds straight away and remember to water your plants regularly and give them plenty of sunlight.

Why don't you take pictures or draw your plants every week, so that you can see how they develop?

