



FUN FACT
Playing music for your plants may help them grow, research studies suggest.

Make planters from plastic bottles

What you need

- Recycled plastic container (such as a laundry detergent, shampoo, or toilet cleaner bottle)
- Masking tape
- Marker
- Heavy-duty shears
- Vegetable oil (optional)
- Hot glue, craft cement, and/or plastic model glue
- Sandpaper (optional)
- For eyes: buttons, a permanent marker, or thumb tacks
- For mouths, ears, snouts: plastic bottle caps and lids, such as from milk jugs or coffee cans

Instructions

1. Decide on an animal you would like to make. We made an elephant, a bear, and a swan, but you can create any animal you like. If you need to cut off part of the bottle, tape a line where you might cut and draw a line on the tape with the marker. Have an adult help cut through the plastic, using heavy-duty cutting shears.
2. For the elephant: A laundry detergent bottle works well. Cut off part of the handle and top to form a snout. Cut a wide plastic top in half to form the ears. For

the bear: A shampoo or body powder bottle works well. For the swan: We used a toilet-cleaner bottle that had a yellow cap, then cut a hole for the plants.

3. Clean the container. To remove a label, soak it in hot water to soften the adhesive. Peel off the label, rubbing on vegetable oil to remove stickiness. If the label won't budge, paint over it or make that side the planter's back.
4. Prepare the glue. Hot glue works well for joining pieces together quickly, but it does not make a permanent bond on smooth

plastic surfaces. You can use a mix of hot glue with craft cement or plastic model glue. It also helps to rough up the smooth surface of the bottle with some sandpaper before gluing. Ask an adult to help you mix the glue together and stick on your face parts.

5. Add eyes. Glue on buttons, draw on eyes with a permanent marker, or press in thumb tacks.
6. Glue on small caps or pieces cut from large caps to create ears, mouths, and snouts.
7. Add soil and a plant or use the container as a vase.



ECO TIP OF THE WEEK LEAVE NO TRACE WHEN YOU HIKE

When you spend time in the great outdoors, it's important to "leave no trace." This means you don't leave behind litter or harm nature while you're there. Keep to the trail and don't step on plants or flowers as you walk. Avoid picking up rocks, bird's nests, and any other natural objects you might come across. Observe animals from a distance and never feed them. If you bring snacks or lunch, be sure to clean up all your trash and leftover food and pack it back up with you. You can throw it in a garbage can when you return to the parking lot or bring it home. Finally, take care not to leave behind items like water bottles and trail maps.



Respect nature during outdoor adventures.