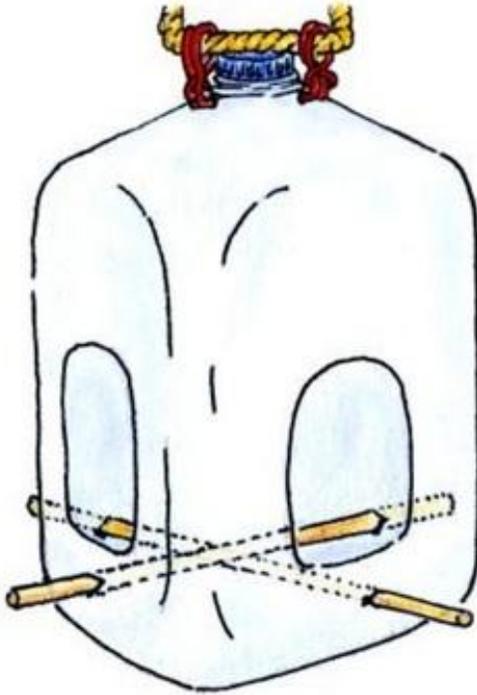




Recycled Milk Jug Bird Feeder

This Bird Feeder project can be constructed from a clean empty milk jug and some other common materials that most people have around the house.



Materials & Tools Needed

- 1 gallon milk jug with lid (a half-gallon milk jug)
- 2 ½ inch diameter wooden dowels 12 inches in length (you could also use straight sturdy tree branches)
- 1 piece of wire, at least 8 inches long
- 1 to 3 foot length of rope or cord
- markers
- hobby knife
- scissors

Construction of the Milk Jug Bird Feeder

Wash and rinse the jug. If there is a strong odor of spoiled milk or a stubborn milk residue, fill with hot water, add a tablespoon of baking soda, shake and then let sit for a couple of hours. Shake again, then empty and rinse well and let the jug and cap air dry.

Draw the openings on opposite facing sides of the jug in the position of the main openings, and measure down from the bottom of the planned opening where you want to cut to insert the dowels for perches. Center the perching rod beneath the openings. Offset the openings and perching rods by about ½ an inch to allow clear passage through the body of the feeder.

Using the hobby knife, make a cut at the center of your opening large enough to get a blade of your scissors through. Cut outward and at an angle towards the line you've drawn. This will help to form the rounded the corners and form the planned opening shape. At the position for inserting the perching rod, make an "X" shaped incision of about ½ inch in length of each line forming the "X". Carefully insert the dowel rods through the "X" cuts.

Make two ¼ inch straight vertical cuts at opposite sides of the opening at the top of the milk jug, just below the collar of the cap. These cuts should be at opposite points of the diameter of the top opening. Fold the wire in half and then form a large "M" with the wire. From the inside of the jug, push one of the points at the top of the "M" out of each of the small vertical cuts made just below the collar of the jug opening. Twist the free ends of the "M" together inside the jug. (This can be done before inserting the top points of the "M" through the vertical incisions.) Once through the vertical cuts at the top, the wire extending out should be twisted together a few times to form a loop at the top, and give the hanging loops greater stability. Pass the hanging cord through the loops to prepare the feeder for hanging.

Fill with wild birdseed up to the bottom of the lowest opening, and hang in a place where the birds that visit your feeder can be easily observed.