

UPCYCLING

FUN ACTIVITIES AND CRAFTING IDEAS





WHAT IS UPCYCLING?

There are many ways to reduce the amount of trash that makes its way to landfills. Recycling is a process where an item is broken down to its core materials and remade into a new product. Or objects can be reused, either by you or by a friend you pass them on to or a nonprofit you donate them to. Another approach is upcycling—taking an item and turning it into something else. Think washing out a pasta jar and using it

as a water glass. Upcycling benefits from creative crafting and can be a source of wonderful projects. This tip book is full of ideas for upcycling projects you can do with kids. As with all arts and crafts projects, ensure the children are supervised and have help with parts that are difficult for them. This booklet is just a starting point. You can find more ideas on the many craft blogs online or in craft books at your local library.

GAMES AND ACTIVITIES

An endless number of games and activities can be made from items that would otherwise be thrown out. Just think about a game and how its pieces might look like something you might otherwise discard. Paper towel cardboard tubes look a lot like bowling pins. Cut a cereal box into fun patterns and it turns into a homemade puzzle.

FUN PROJECT: TRAVEL TIC-TAC-TOE

Travel tic-tac-toe games are super easy to make and great for tossing in the car or your bag so you always have an activity on hand. Even though there are only nine spots on a tic-tac-toe board, you'll need 10 bottle caps. That way either X or O can go first.

SUPPLIES

- 10 bottle caps
- 1 permanent marker
- 1 small light-colored sack
- Ruler or popsicle stick



Step 1: Use the marker to put an X on five of the bottle tops and an O on the other five.

Step 2: Draw a nine-box grid on the bag with your marker. A ruler or popsicle stick will help you keep your lines straight. Depending on the material, you may need to go over the lines a few times to ensure they're dark enough.

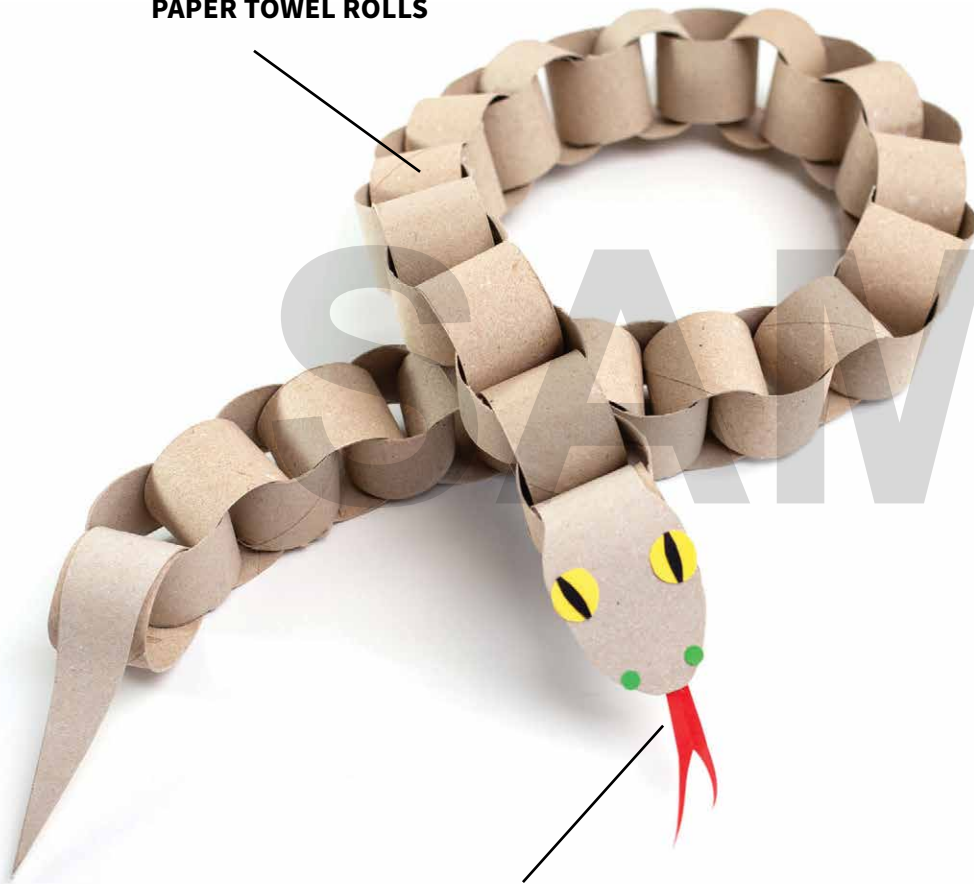


And that's it. Now you have a fun travel tic-tac-toe game.

ART PROJECTS

Kids can turn almost anything into art supplies. This is your opportunity to encourage their creative side while saving money and reducing waste. A cardboard box becomes a canvas, bottle caps turn into beads, a spare button becomes a creature's nose.

PAPER TOWEL ROLLS



CONSTRUCTION PAPER

MILK CARTON

THUMB TACKS



BOTTLE CAPS

CEREAL BOX





IN THE GARDEN

The garden is a great place to upcycle. Gardeners have been finding creative ways to reuse all sorts of items. A quick search online will turn up ways to repurpose toilet paper tubes, metal cans, jar lids, egg cartons, and all sorts of other items from the house. Plastic bottles are among the most versatile materials in the garden. The ideas below feature planters and tools that can be made with plastic bottles. All the projects on this page require cutting plastic bottles. That step should be done by a parent, but when the bottles are ready for painting and planting, this is a great way for creative kids to use upcycling to support your garden or indoor plants.

PLASTIC BOTTLE IDEAS

GARDEN SCOOP

Using a heavy-duty plastic bottle, you can create an effective garden scoop.



PLANTERS

Turn plastic bottles into hanging planters. Poke holes in the bottom to allow drainage.



FUN SHAPES

Because plastic is easier to cut than most materials used for planters, you can make fun shapes for kids to paint.



PROTECT SEEDLINGS

Use a cut water bottle to protect seedlings from wind and cold temperatures early in the growing season.



HALLOWEEN

Holidays are a perfect time to work on craft projects as a family. Upcycling not only supports conservation efforts but is a reason to bring the family together for a crafting project. There are great projects featured online for almost every holiday, but Halloween is one when kids can really let their imaginations run wild. From costumes upcycled from objects found around the home to decorations and even candy bowls, creative crafting with upcycled materials is a wonderful way to prepare for and celebrate Halloween.

EGG CARTON HALLOWEEN CRAFT

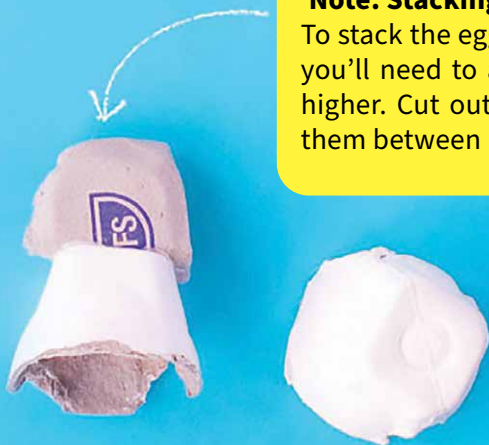
Get ready for Halloween by turning egg cartons into fun Halloween characters. Cut out each of the individual egg pockets, paint them, and stack them to make the characters.

SUPPLIES

- Egg carton
- Glue
- Paint (in a variety of colors)
- Card stock (in a variety of colors)
- Black marker
- Googly eyes
- Glitter paper (gold for the witch, red for the vampire)
- Popsicle stick (for the pumpkin)
- Black buttons (for Frankenstein)

Note: Stacking the Egg Pockets

To stack the egg pockets on top of each other, you'll need to add spacers so they sit a little higher. Cut out small square pieces and glue them between pockets.





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