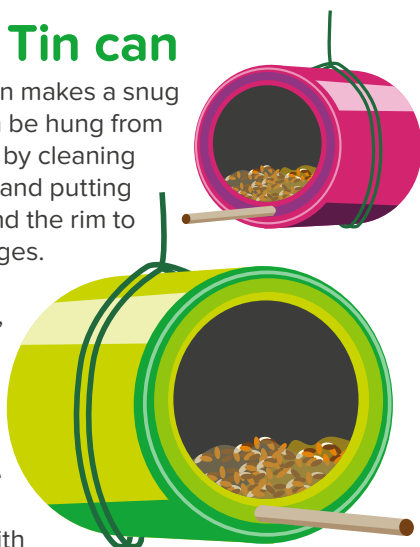


# Make your own bird feeder

Help our feathered friends find food in the winter months by making an upcycled bird feeder to hang at school.

## Idea one: Tin can

The good old tin can makes a snug bird feeder that can be hung from a tree branch. Start by cleaning the can thoroughly and putting masking tape around the rim to cover any sharp edges. Decorate the can exterior and, if time, attach a stick or an old pencil stub to provide a perch. Finally, loop string or twine around the middle of the can, secure at the top with a knot and loop another around the can and a tree branch to hang your feeder.



## Feeding patterns

Did you know some Blue and Great Tits may be up to 5% lighter at dawn than they were the previous night?<sup>1</sup>

The weight loss is even more pronounced during periods of cold weather. It's why most garden birds flock to feeders **first thing in the morning**, to top up energy reserves lost the previous night. The next peak in feeding activity occurs at **lunchtime**, but it's more a snacking opportunity than a time to stop for a full meal. The final peak in feeder activity occurs towards the **end of the day**, as birds stock up to help them through the night ahead.



## Idea two: Plastic bottle

The humble plastic water bottle can be turned into a bird feeder in a few simple steps. Start by cleaning the bottle and removing any labels. On the bottom half of the bottle, pierce holes either side and feed through an old wooden spoon. Repeat, if possible, to make two feeding stations. (Make sure the holes are big enough to allow food to be dispensed). Next, pierce two holes in the lid and thread string through. Knot this on the underside of the lid to create a hook. Load the bottle with seed and shake to disperse some onto the spoons. Screw the lid back on and your feeder is now ready to hang from a branch.

Remember to keep your feeder topped up to ensure birds become regular visitors to your school.



## Good hygiene

Wild birds are susceptible to a range of different diseases, so it's important to keep your feeder clean to prevent any illnesses spreading amongst visitors to your garden. Here are our top tips:

- ▶ Regularly clean and disinfect bird tables and hanging feeders.
- ▶ Sweep bird tables clean every day to remove droppings and any uneaten food.
- ▶ Disinfect tables and other feeding surfaces on a weekly or fortnightly cycle.
- ▶ Keep the ground beneath feeders clean with regular sweeping and disinfecting.

Find out more at [www.bto.org/gbw](http://www.bto.org/gbw)

**DID YOU KNOW?** Birds can be fed all year round. Download our **How to make bird cake quick activity** for ideas on what to feed them.

Download our **bird cake activity** and more supporting resources from the Pod