How to Make a Bird Feeder from a 2-Liter Plastic Bottle

Written by [Melissa Mayntz](https://www.thespruce.com/melissa-mayntz-be-your-own-birder-385133)

<https://www.thespruce.com/make-a-plastic-bottle-bird-feeder-386547>

A great family project for bird lovers is turning an ordinary 2-liter plastic bottle into a functional bird feeder. These simple feeders are perfectly functional and can help backyard birders feed more birds without purchasing expensive feeders. As a family project, it teaches the value of both recycling and wildlife conservation.

The most common bottles for this project are ordinary 2-liter beverage bottles, but just about any plastic bottle will work, including water bottles, sports drink bottles, or even plastic ketchup or jelly containers. For perches, you can use woodworking dowels, unsharpened pencils, chopsticks, twigs, or any other similar stick.

**What You'll Need**

* Awl or another puncturing tool
* Utility knife
* Plastic bottle
* Perch sticks, 8 to 10 inches long and about 1/4 inch thick
* Metal screw hook
* Polyurethane glue (such as Gorilla glue)

**Instructions**

Clean the Bottle- Clean and dry the bottle thoroughly, removing any labels. Use a weak bleach solution to be sure the bottle is sanitized, then rinse thoroughly. Allow the bottle to air dry for several hours or overnight to ensure that no moisture remains inside, which could [cause the seeds to spoil](https://www.thespruce.com/does-birdseed-like-sunflower-seed-go-bad-386535).

Attach the Hanger Hook- Screw the hook into the center of the bottle's cap, making sure it is firm and tight. If necessary, you can use an awl or nail to start the hole, which will make it easier to screw in the hook.

After the hook is fully inserted, seal both sides (inside and out) with a drop of polyurethane glue to provide extra strength and to keep moisture out of the feeder. Avoid getting glue on the cap's threads, however, as you will need to open the bottle whenever you refill it with seeds.

Add Perches- Cut holes large enough to fit the perches completely through the bottle, about 1 1/2 inches from the bottom of the bottle. The perch dowels should fit snugly into the holes and extend completely across the bottle and out the matching hole on the opposite side. When inserting the perches, balance the length of the perch on each end to allow birds to feed comfortably. A small bit of glue can also be used to secure perches and keep the holes from widening or loosening.

If desired, add additional perches higher on the bottle. Each additional perch should be 2 to 3 inches higher than the last and rotated around the bottle from where the last perch was located. This creates the most space for birds to perch. The top perch should be 3 to 4 inches below the cap.

Cut Feeding Ports- Cut feeding ports 1 to 2 inches above each perch, using a utility knife. The ports should be 1/8 to 1/4 inch wide, depending on the type of seed you will use—use larger holes for mixed seed or [sunflower seeds](https://www.thespruce.com/black-oil-sunflower-seeds-386560), and smaller holes for [Nyjer](https://www.thespruce.com/nyger-seeds-for-finches-386574) or [millet](https://www.thespruce.com/what-is-white-proso-millet-386572). Oval-shaped holes that are taller than they are wide will be easier for birds to feed on.

Fill With Seed- Slowly fill the feeder with the desired seed. If the feeding ports are too big, placing a piece of clear tape over them and recutting smaller holes in the tape can fix the problem. If desired, you can add crumpled paper, decorative marbles or gravel to fill the very bottom of the feeder, occupying the space below the feeding ports where the seeds are out of reach of the bids.

Hang the Feeder- Hang the feeder outside from a tree branch or other support structure and wait for birds to discover it. It won't take long.

**Tips for Feeding Birds**

To keep your new bird feeder at its best for the birds:

* Clean or replace the feeder regularly to avoid spreading diseases to backyard birds.
* Experiment with [different types of birdseed](https://www.thespruce.com/types-of-birdseed-4122052) to attract the widest variety of bird species.
* When refilling your feeder, put any uneaten seed into a platform or [ground feeder](https://www.thespruce.com/ground-bird-feeders-385753) so it can be eaten quickly.