

Take & Make

Birdseed Cookies!

Materials Provided:

- 1 Packet Unflavored Gelatin
- 1.5 Cups Birdseed
- 3 Straws
- String

Additional Materials Needed:

- 1/4 Cup Water
- Microwave Safe Bowl
- Muffin/Cupcake Pan
- Non-Stick Cooking Spray
- Optional: “Decorations” like dried berries, oats, nuts, etc, and salt free peanut butter (Crisco can be used for those allergic to peanuts).



Directions:

- Pour 1/4 cup of water into a microwave-safe bowl
- Sprinkle 1 packet of gelatin into the water and let sit for about 1 minute.
- An adult should heat water and gelatin mixture in the microwave for 30 seconds (until hot, but not boiling). Carefully stir.
- Add the birdseed to the gelatin mixture and stir until mixed well.



Thank you to the Creative Little Explorers blog for the <https://www.creativelittleexplorers.com/making-birdseed-cookies-diy-winter-bird-feeder>

- Spray a muffin pan with non-stick cooking oil spray.
- Spoon the birdseed/gelatin mixture into the muffin pan (it's okay if you can't fill all of the sections of your pan).
- Press and flatten each one.



- Cut your straws so you have enough for each birdseed cookie.
- Push a piece of a straw into each cookie, making sure it reaches the bottom. Don't put them too close to the edge because the edge is weaker. You may even want to put the straw directly through the center.
- Press around the straw to make sure it's secure.



- Put the muffin pan into the refrigerator for at least 3 hours. The birdseed cookies should be hardened when set. Don't take them out before they are hardened!
- Take the birdseed cookies out of the pan. I used a butter knife to slide along the edge and they popped out easily that way.
- Remove the straw and tie a string through the hole.
- Hang on a tree outside and watch the birds enjoy their treat!



Tips for hanging these birdseed cookie bird feeders:

- Be sure to hang the birdseed cookies at least 5 feet off of the ground so dogs and other animals can't reach them.
- Try hanging them in different areas around the yard, like trees and shrubs.
- Be sure to avoid areas that get a lot of strong wind and rain.

OPTIONAL: DECORATE YOUR BIRDSEED COOKIE BIRD FEEDERS!

- ****NOTE:** Be sure the birdseed cookies are completely hardened before decorating so they don't weaken and fall apart**
- This step is mostly just for fun, but the birds are sure to enjoy it too. We wanted to decorate our bird feeders, so we used peanut butter (salt and sugar free) as "frosting" and dried berries and rolled oats as "sprinkles". We also picked out some bigger pieces of cracked corn and sunflower seeds from the birdseed we had. It was fun to put a little extra care into our creations.

