

Wreath making guide

Every wreath you make and every pound you raise will help fund our vital services so we can be there for all children. Take your pick from the wreaths below, get your wreath making materials at the ready and one, two, tree... craft!

Traditional wreath

Get in the festive spirit and make this traditional wreath to adorn your front door.

You will need:

- A hoop or wreath frame
- Real or artificial foliage
- Wire
- Glue
- Optional decorations (such as pinecones, cinnamon sticks or a bow)

Instructions

1. Cut up your foliage and prepare in small, mixed bunches. Then secure them at the stems with wire.
2. Attach your wire to your hoop by wrapping one end around it a few times.
3. Take a foliage bunch and attach it to your hoop using the wire. Wrap it tightly around the stems a few times until it stays in place.
4. Add bunches all the way along your hoop, overlapping each one to cover up the stems of the previous bunch.
5. Once the hoop is covered, trim the wire and tuck it behind the foliage. Then cut a small piece of wire and attach it to the top for hanging.
6. Attach any other decorations with wire or glue.



Suggested donation: £15

If you're using a foam oasis ring, make sure to submerge it and soak it in water for 10-15 minutes before you begin making your wreath. Make sure to let the oasis sink to the bottom of the container it is soaking in. Don't push it down towards the bottom of the container, as this will lead to your foliage not getting water from the oasis due to airlock. When using oasis, you won't need to use wire to secure your foliage - you can simply poke it into the oasis.



The felt wreath

Looking for something a bit more crafty? Then the felt wreath is perfect for you. You can use any colour felt and materials you want, so you can make a wreath that's as unique as you are.

You will need:

- Scissors
- Felt sheets – in any colours you'd like!
- PVA glue or a glue gun
- Cardboard
- Ribbon
- A felt tip pen
- String
- Cotton wool
- Other decorations of your choice (such as ribbon, tinsel, buttons or pipe cleaners)

Instructions

1. Think about how big you would like your wreath to be. Draw two circles on the cardboard, one inside of the other. Cut along both lines to create a cardboard ring for your wreath base.
 2. Using a felt tip pen, draw shapes of all different sizes on your felt sheets and cut them out, such as the leaf shapes on this wreath.
 3. Using glue, begin to stick the felt down flat to hide the cardboard base. Layer them to create texture.
 4. To add the effect of berries, cut out small circles from a felt sheet and wrap these around balls of cotton wool, seal them together with glue or string and attach them to your wreath.
 5. Attach any other decoration, such as ribbon, or glue on some eco-glitter.
 6. Attach string to the back of your wreath then it's ready to hang!
- If felt sheets aren't your thing, materials that could be used in place of felt are tissue paper, crepe paper, wrapping paper or patterned card!



The handy wreath

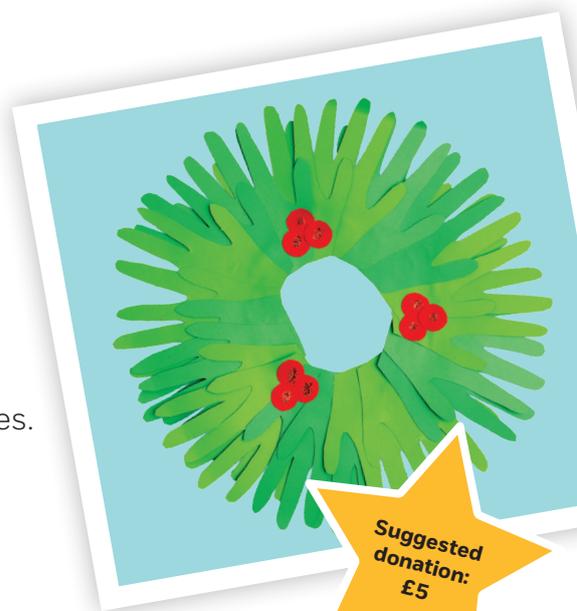
This wreath is a fun and easy one to make with children as you can get the whole family involved and use different sized hands. Simply draw and cut round your hands to create this fun and colourful wreath.

You will need:

- A pencil
- Scissors
- Green and red card
- Glue and sticky tape
- Red eco-glitter
- Ribbon

Instructions

1. Draw around your hands on green card and cut out the shapes. You'll need 10-20 (depending on how big you want your wreath).
2. Arrange all the hands in a circle shape then glue or tape them together.
3. Cut out some circles from the red card and decorate with eco-glitter. Stick those on too.
4. Loop some ribbon through the middle and tie a bow. Your wreath is ready!



The foraged wreath

If winter walks and sitting by an open fire get you feeling all festive, this is the wreath for you. Get out into the great outdoors and forage what you can to make a wreath that's truly unique.

If you're foraging in a public place, find out if you need permission before picking anything.

You will need:

- A frame to make your wreath (a wreath hoop, oasis wreath ring or willow stems if you want to make your own)
- Moss if using a wreath hoop
- Sharp scissors or garden secateurs
- Floristry wire
- Gardening gloves
- Wired ribbon – if you'd like to add a traditional bow
- Your handpicked foliage! We'd suggest holly, dried fruits, pine cones, evergreens such as spruce, fir or cypress to add some texture

Top tip: always pick more than you think you'll need.

Create your own wreath ring

If you'd like to make your own wreath ring, willow is a great material to use.

- Collect as many willow stems as you can. We'd recommend trying to have as many as possible at the length of 1 metre - this will allow you to determine how big you'd like your wreath. If you can't find any stems that are long, use wire to connect a few stems together, making sure they're tightly secured.
- Start by bending one stem of willow gently, so that it doesn't snap, into a circle and secure it with a piece of wire to keep the shape.
- Begin to twist and weave the other pieces of willow around the stem, securing with wire where needed. Continue to do this until it's at your desired thickness.

Suggested donation: £20



If you're unable to go foraging, dried flowers are great to use in place of foraged materials.

Using a wreath frame and moss

If you are using a wreath frame when creating your wreath, it is recommended that you use moss as your base. Keep your wreath moist, making sure it's damp before fastening it to your frame with wire.

Using an oasis ring

Soak the oasis in water for 10-15 minutes, letting it sink to the bottom of the container it is soaking in. Do not push it down as this will lead to your foliage not getting water from the oasis due to airlock.

Instructions

1. Cut your foliage into different lengths ranging from 5cm to 25cm, making sure there's enough stem to poke into the base.
2. Evenly distribute the foliage around your base starting from the outside. Using wire to secure everything in place if using a wreath frame or a willow ring.
3. If there is any additional foliage or flowers you would like to bunch together, use wire to do this and then fasten to the base.
4. Once the hoop's covered, trim the wire and tuck it behind the foliage so it's out of sight.
5. Attach any other decorations to the wreath such as ribbon, pine cones or candy canes.
6. Cut a piece of wire or use a ribbon and attach to the top of the wreath for hanging.



The pom-pom wreath

You will need:

- A polystyrene wreath ring
- A glue gun
- Wool
- Cardboard
- A circular cup/mug
- A bottle lid (or something similar in size)
- Scissors
- A pencil

Instructions

1. Think about how many pom-poms you will need to cover your wreath ring.
2. Draw around the cup on the cardboard, then cut the circle out.
3. Place the bottle lid in the middle of your circle, draw around it and cut the circle out to make a ring shape.
4. Cut a 1cm slice out of the ring.
5. Repeat steps 1-3 to create a second ring and place one ring on top of the other. This is your pom-pom template.
6. Wrap your wool around the rings, passing it through the slice. Try to keep it even all the way along.
7. Once the hole in the centre is filled with wool, slide your scissors in between the two cardboard rings and cut the wool all the way along the outside edge.
8. Take a new piece of wool (around 15cm), wrap it around the pom-pom (between the cardboard rings) and tie it tightly.
9. Remove the cardboard and trim your pom-pom to shape.
10. Once you've created enough pom-poms, use a glue gun to secure the pom-poms to your wreath ring.
11. Tie ribbon at the top of the wreath ring for hanging.

Suggested donation: £10

