



# GET BUSY GARDENING!

DIY for the Beginner on a Budget

## 20 New Ways to Use Old Junk in the Garden

- Compost bin - Make a compost bin out of leftover fencing, chicken wire, scrap lumber, lattice, or even an old garbage bin.
- Seed starting flats – Start seeds in flats made out of take-out containers, ice cream buckets, containers from the deli or bakery, even milk jugs or soda bottles would work great (cut in half).
- Seed storage – Store seeds in small containers like empty pill bottles, condiment containers from take-out, baby food jars, spice jars, small zip top bags, paper bags or envelopes.
- Plant tags – Make plant tags out of cut up vinyl mini blinds, silverware, popsicle sticks, wine corks or used paint stir sticks.
- Propagation box – Create a propagation box out of a large plastic storage bin, a retired fish tank, plastic cake dome, or other large plastic or glass container.
- Cold frame – Use recycled materials such as wood, bricks and block for the base; an old shower door, patio door, windows, clear plastic, or any other durable, transparent material for the top.
- Garden art – Just about anything could be used to create art for the garden. Use rusty garden tools, equipment parts, old jewelry, marbles, tiles, shells, or items from the kitchen like silverware, plates, bowls or vases.
- Garden trellis – Trellises are easy to make out of scrap wood, pipes, string, even scrap metal from old headboards, bed rails, chairs or a gates. There are countless items that could be used as a trellis.
- Garden plant stand – Turn an old tree stump into a decorative plant stand, or make one out of an old table, chair, ladder, pillar or bench.
- Terrarium – An old fish tank makes a perfect terrarium for indoor gardening. You can also make one out of a glass jar, vase, bowl or just about any glass or clear plastic container.



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- Creative planter – With a little bit of imagination, you could use virtually anything as a planter. Old shoes, a tool box, chair, wheel barrow, teapot, crates, even a repurposed toilet if that's your thing.
- Garden edging – There are many types of materials that can easily be repurposed to edge your gardens. Lumber, bricks, rock, cement block, scrap metal or railroad ties.
- Cover holes in garden pots – Covering the hole allows water to drain out, and soil to stay in. Use left over pieces of screen material, landscaping fabric, nylon, mesh from produce bags or other similar material.
- Plant stakes - Pieces of scrap metal or wood, rebar, wood spindles, sticks and pipes all work great to stake plants.
- Plant ties – Plants can be tied back with many different types of materials like old socks, panty hose, string, ribbon, rubber bands, hair ties, headbands, elastic bandage wrap or twist ties.
- Kitchen compost bucket – A large bucket, bin or coffee can works great as a kitchen compost bucket. Keep it under your sink so it's handy, leave the lid on to keep fruit flies out.
- Watering can – Any type of container like a milk jug, juice container, bottles, pitcher, vase, wine or coffee carafes work great to use to water plants.
- Drip trays for pots – Indoor plants with a hole in the pot need a drip tray to catch the water. There are countless items you could use such as plates, bowls, food storage containers, cups, lids, a boot tray, or an old candle holder.
- Frost protection – Protect your tender garden plants this fall with old bed sheets, blankets, towels or other lightweight fabrics. Empty plant pots and other containers turned upside down over plants work great in a pinch too.
- Weed control – Cardboard and newspaper work great to keep weeds down in the garden or to start a new garden area. Cover with a thick layer of mulch, compost, leaves or pine needles to smother areas of grass or weeds.