

Make a bird bath

Credit: Kilkenny Education Centre

Birds love taking baths! If you live near a pond, lake or river, you might often see birds dipping into the water, some in full flight, others enjoy longer baths. But bathing is not just for fun. Bathing helps keeping the feathers clean as the water loosens the dust and dirt and makes it easier for the birds to preen themselves.



For us it's relaxing, enjoyable and also educational to watch birds come and go.

A simple bird bath (Kilkenny Education Centre). Credit: lowes.com

They dip in and out, come back again and again and don't seem to get enough, especially on very warm days. With your own bird bath at home you will be able to observe many different species and notice differences in their bathing habits. This could be a good starting point for your first bird survey!

Here is how to make a simple bird bath at home.

What you need

Shallow dish

Flat rocks

What to do

Making a bird bath is quite simple:

Take a shallow dish or flat bowl, fill it with water and put it onto the ground or onto a sturdy construction.

There are, however, a few things to watch out for:

- Birds should be able to sit on the edge of the bird bath. Add a couple of flat rocks or stones for them to perch while cleaning themselves.
- Safety is important! Predators will quickly learn about the bird bath and come sneaking up on the birds. Make sure to put your bird bath in a safe place, for example a bit above ground. Your construction needs to be sturdy enough to hold the bird bath and also allow birds to land and lift off.
- Change the water regularly.
- Clean the bird bath: algae, bird droppings and other dirt will build up and need to be scrubbed off weekly.