

Upcycle – Cool Winter Craft Ideas

It cold outside ... and it's the perfect time to reinvent some of the things you were thinking of throwing out. Think reduce, reuse, recycle as you tighten your belt and stay warm after the holidays.

Upcycling "is the new black" and anyone can do it. All you need is your imagination and a good movie or music to accompany you as you become a recycling artist in your own home.

Here are five easy projects for you make by yourself or with your family:

Make a candle holder

What you need:

- An aluminum can
- A piece of paper and a marker
- Scissors
- Tape
- A hammer and a long nail



How you do it:

- Cut the paper to fit the can
- Draw a design you like on the paper, making dots along the edges for the holes and then tape it to the can.
- Lay the can on its side and then use the hammer and nail to make the holes.
- Remove the paper

Make arm warmers or fingerless gloves from socks

What you'll need:

- A pair of socks
- Scissors
- A needle and thread



How you do it:

- Pick a pair of colorful socks
(knee socks for arm warmers ankle socks for gloves.)
- Cut a straight line across each sock, about 2 inches away from the heel, then cut a hole in the heels to make thumb holes.
- Folding in the edges that you cut and using a needle and thread to hem the edges.

Turn a t-shirt into a pillow cover

What you need:

- T-shirt
- Pillow
- Measuring tape
- Tissue paper
- Scissors
- pins
- A needle and thread

(or sewing machine!)



How you do it:

- Measure your pillow insert from side seam to side seam, then top seam to bottom seam. Add about 1" to each measurement before cutting the front piece of your pillow cover.
- Use the bottom edges from the front and back of the shirt to create two pieces for the back of the pillow.
- No matter what size your pillow insert is you will cut one back piece about 3" shorter than the top to bottom of your front piece. Then cut a second piece about 9" shorter than your front piece. The width of the pieces will be the same as the width of the front piece. The two back pieces should overlap.
- Pin the front and back pieces together inside out. Place the larger back piece, with raw edges matching, finished edge at the bottom and right side down, on top of the front piece.
- Sew around all of the edges with a 1/4" inseam. Turn the whole thing right side out, and slip in the pillow.

Get your seeds going with recycled drink bottles

What you need:

- Seeds/plant
- Potting soil
- 2 liter plastic bottle (any size really)
- Tape
- Paper
- Marker
- Scissors/Sharp knife for making holes
- Strip of felt



How you do it:

- Remove label from clean bottle
- Take your sharp object and poke drainage holes in the top third section of the bottle.
- Pierce a hole in the side of the bottle about half-way down.
- Draw a straight line on the paper, wrap it around the bottle and then tape it in place.
- Using the hole as a starting point, cut along bottle along line.
- Fill top part of bottle with soil
- Cut strip of felt about 3.5"- 4" long.
- Invert bottle top and insert strip of felt. Make sure that the fabric is in direct contact with the soil.
- Fill bottom of container with water.
- Add seeds or plant to the top part.

Heart wreath from old shirts

What you need:

- 3 old shirts or more depending on colors
- Wire wreath frame
- Scissors
- Ribbon or string



How you do it:

- Cut shirts into strips about 5" long and .5" wide. Avoid seams, buttons, cuffs and collars.
- Tie strips on to frame. Make sure that there is no space left on the frame – strips need to be packed tightly together.
- Add length of string or ribbon.

For more information on refuse and recycling in the City of Manassas, visit www.manassascity.org/trash or call the Trashline on 703-257-8252.