

CREATE YOUR OWN BOTTLE GARDEN

Do some good for the planet by recycling old pop bottles while getting closer to nature. Create just one bottle planter or hook several together to form a hanging garden.

What you'll need:

- Clean, empty 2-litre plastic pop bottle
- Metal finishing nail or skewer
- Barbecue lighter
- Scissors or box cutter
- Clothesline rope, twine, wire or string
- Two washers, or beads
- Drainage pebbles or gravel
- Potting soil
- 5 hooks (S, ceiling or cup)
- Seeds or plants

1. Prepare the container:

*Have an adult supervise or help with cutting the bottle and making holes.

Empty and rinse a large plastic pop bottle, cap it and lie it on its side. Carefully heat the tip of a nail with the barbecue lighter.

Using the hot nail tip, poke two small holes at each end of the bottle. Cut a rectangular opening at the top of the bottle so it's centered between the holes.

2. Make the hanger:

Cut two, 60-cm pieces of rope, twine or string.

Tie a loop at one end of both pieces of rope. Make sure the loop's knot is bigger than the hole in the washer. Slide the washer down to the knotted end of the rope.

Thread the ropes through the bottom and top holes on each side of the bottle.

3. Plant the garden:

Add pebbles to the bottom of the bottle for drainage. Then fill with potting soil.

Planting time! Choose seeds or young plants, herbs or flowers and set them in the soil, then water them.

4. Hang your garden:

Knot a loop at the other end of both ropes so the bottle is horizontally level. Hang the bottle near a window using the hooks.

Create a green "ladder" by hooking a series of bottle gardens together.

