

Cheshire
Wildlife Trust



Upcycling



cheshirewildlifetrust.org.uk

Planters

You don't need to spend loads of money at a garden centre – anything that holds soil can become a planter!

There are two rules:

- make sure the depth is right for your plants
- punch some drainage holes in the bottom



Seed sowing

Start seeds in old toilet rolls or egg boxes. You can plant the whole container straight into the ground and the card will break down as the plant grows.



Get creative

Get creative with old tyres! Lay them on the ground and plant inside them, or you could stand them up or mount them on a wall.



Personalised pots

Tin cans make great pots, and the metal is thin enough to punch holes in using a nail and hammer. Personalise them by painting them fun colours!



Think unusual

You'll be amazed at what unusual items you can plant in!



Pallets

Wooden pallets can create some stylish features in your space.

Remember, if using power tools, ensure you are using them safely and using the correct personal protective equipment.

Stack pallets and fill them with materials to create a bug hotel. Make sure you use a variety of materials to create different sized holes and hiding places for different insects. This could include bark, logs, straw, sticks and bamboo canes.



Pallets have the perfect sized spaces for planting in-between. Lay it on the ground and create a mini raised bed. The slats also act as a perfect place to rest your tools while you work.



Short on space? Place the pallet upright to create a vertical garden. You can plant it up in different ways; either make the pallet into one big planter by lining the slats and filling them with soil, or attach plant pots to the slats using twine.



Find pallets on local sell and seek sites, websites such as gumtree and Freecycle, and at local builders merchants.

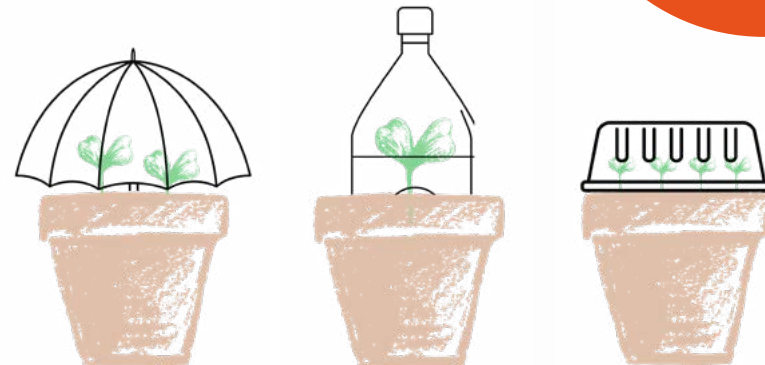


Mini greenhouses

For a lot of us, greenhouses are out of our budget and take up lots of space.

Did you know, when moving seedlings from the indoors to the outdoors, you are best to get the plant used to colder temperatures in a greenhouse first before planting them outside.

Below are some examples of ways to create the warm, humid environment of a greenhouse using everyday objects such as umbrellas, plastic containers, and water bottles.



Where do I get my materials from?

- Local sell and seek groups on Facebook, or Facebook marketplace are great places to find materials.
- Freecycle.org is a site where people give away items and plants for free.
- Gumtree is a site where you can buy secondhand items.
- Local builders merchants, DIY stores and garden centres often have offcuts and slightly damaged items that they're discarding.
- Some local tips have recycling centres selling salvaged items for a small price.
- Skips and sides of the road are sometimes good places to look but remember to stay safe and always gain permission from the owner before taking anything.



Keep us updated on your upcycling by sending your photos and stories to **wilderengagement@cheshirewt.org.uk**