



## DIY TOILET PAPER ROLL BIRD FEEDER CRAFT!

### MATERIALS NEEDED

- Toilet Paper Roll
- 2 sturdy sticks (6-8 inches long)
- Bird Seed
- Peanut Butter (or any nut butter)
- String or Ribbon
- Hole Punch



1. To start making your toilet paper roll bird feeder craft, punch 2 holes in one side of the toilet paper roll, aligning them evenly across from each other. This will be used to tie the string for hanging.



2. Punch 4 holes into the opposite end of the toilet paper roll, align them evenly. This is for the sticks that the birds will perch on. Try to put one set a little higher than the other so the sticks can be pushed through without issue.

3. Insert the 2 sticks into each hole, going in one side and out the other in the corresponding hole. Wiggle and push in sticks gently, you don't want the holes to rip or get too loose. The sticks might fall out!

4. Center each stick, they should be crossing each other like an intersection and should stick out enough for a bird to perch on.

5. Next, holding the lower part of the feeder below the sticks, you'll spread a light layer of peanut butter on the upper part of the toilet paper roll and cover in bird seed. We used the back of a spoon to slather on the peanut butter and pressed in the bird seed all around it. Careful not to cover your holes at the top, you'll clog them with peanut butter and you need them for the next step!



6. Cut string to your desired length. Tie your string to the top of the bird feeder through the two holes you cut in step 1 to make it hangable. Now you are ready to hang your homemade bird feeder craft and admire!

**NICE JOB!**

**Different types of birdseed attracts different birds. Here is a general guide to help you choose what kind of seed to use on your craft. (\*we used a mix for our project\*)**

### Sunflower

There are two kinds of sunflower—black oil and striped. The black oil seeds ("oilers") have very thin shells, easy for virtually all seed-eating birds to crack open, and the kernels within have a high fat content, extremely valuable for most winter birds. Striped sunflower seeds have a thicker shell, much harder for House Sparrows and blackbirds to crack open. So if you're inundated with species you'd rather not subsidize at your black oil sunflower, before you do anything else, try switching to striped sunflower. However, Sunflower is very attractive to squirrels, a problem for people who don't wish to subsidize them.

### Shelled And Cracked Corn

Corn is eaten by grouse, pheasants, turkeys, quails, cardinals, grosbeaks, crows, ravens, jays, doves, ducks, cranes, and other species. Never buy corn in plastic bags, never allow it to get wet, never offer it in amounts that can't be consumed in a day during rainy or very humid weather, and be conscientious about raking up old corn.

Never offer corn covered in a red dye. Corn intended for planting is often treated with fungicides, marked with red dye as a warning. It is highly toxic to humans, livestock, and all birds.

### Safflower

Safflower has a thick shell, hard for some birds to crack open, but is a favorite among cardinals. Some grosbeaks, chickadees, doves, and native sparrows also eat it. According to some sources, House Sparrows, European Starlings, and squirrels don't like safflower, but in some areas seem to have developed a taste for it.

### Nyjer Or Thistle

Small finches including American Goldfinches, Lesser Goldfinches, Indigo Buntings, Pine Siskins, and Common Redpolls often devour these tiny, black, needle-like seeds. As invasive thistle plants became a recognized problem in North America, suppliers shifted to a daisy-like plant, known as *Guizotia abyssinica*, that produces a similar type of small, oily, rich seed. The plant is now known as niger or nyjer, and is imported from overseas.

### Peanuts

Peanuts are very popular with jays, crows, chickadees, titmice, woodpeckers, and many other species, but are also favored by squirrels, bears, raccoons, and other animals that should not be subsidized. Like corn, peanuts have a high likelihood of harboring aflatoxins, so must be kept dry and used up fairly quickly.