

CRAFTY IDEAS

THESE ECO-FRIENDLY DECORATIONS MAKE GREAT GIFTS AND BRIGHTEN UP ANY TREE. *ANIMAL ACTIONS* ACE CRAFTER GRACE DEMONSTRATES...

You don't have to look far in winter for fallen pine cones. Search for conifer trees, and you'll find piles of them underneath. Don't worry if they're closed up, they do this when it's cold. Just leave them somewhere warm and dry to open up. Then get crafting!

YOU WILL NEED:

- A selection of pine cones
- Pieces of felt in different colours (or you could use scraps of any material, or even paper)
- Small twigs, about 2-3cm long
- Scissors
- Craft glue
- Blu Tack
- Thread, ribbon or wire
- Tracing paper
- Pencil
- Marker pen



Make Pine Cone Christmas Animals

HOW TO MAKE:

1. Choose which of the four animals you would like to make first – reindeer, owl, robin or hedgehog. Download and print out our page of templates.
2. Carefully cut out the paper shapes, place each one onto the right colour of felt, then carefully cut around that.
3. Make the eyes either by sticking a smaller black circle inside a white circle, or using your marker pen to draw a dark-coloured pupil inside your white circle.
4. Some of the other template pieces, like the reindeer's ears and owl's face, need to be stuck together before sticking on the cone.



5. Place the pieces on your pine cone where you think they sit best – you can copy our animals hanging on the tree here, to get the positions just right.
6. For the reindeer's antlers, it might help to use some Blu Tack to push them into the pine cone and keep them in place.



7. When you're happy with how your animals look, apply a little bit of glue to the pine cone and the material/twigs, then stick each piece in place. Leave to dry.
8. Use your thread or wire to make a loop to hang your cone on the tree – you might need a grown-up's help if it's fiddly.
9. If you don't want to hang your animals, they can be ornaments, too – you could arrange them as a centrepiece for Christmas dinner, or use them to decorate a cake!

Photos: Andrew Forsyth/RSPCA

SAY NO TO GLITTER!

Did you know glitter is made of tiny particles of plastic that never break down? Microplastics often end up in the stomachs of fish and birds and they'll still be hanging around on planet earth for thousands of years to come.

MORE GREAT IDEAS FOR FESTIVE PINE CONE MAKES

1. PAINT OR SPRAY CONES A FESTIVE COLOUR AND TIE TO A TREE.

2. HANG THEM FROM TWIGS LIKE WE HAVE DONE HERE!

3. COMBINE THEM WITH HOLLY AND OTHER FESTIVE FOLIAGE TO MAKE A WREATH.

4. TIE THEM ALONG SOME RIBBON TO MAKE A GARLAND.

5. PLACE THEM IN A VASE WITH SOME BATTERY-POWERED FAIRY LIGHTS.

You could make decorations as presents – or sell them to raise money for the RSPCA and help animals!