

Recyclable Plastic Bottle Fish

Age: 8+ (children under 8 require adult supervision)

Plastic bottles are currently the 8th item listed on the Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup's [Dirty Dozen](#) list, which is a list of the top items collected across Canada from our shorelines. In 2019 alone, over 20,000 bottles were collected!

Around the world, the equivalent of one dump truck load of plastic enters the oceans every minute, impacting hundreds of marine species.

“Once in the water, plastic never goes away. It breaks up into increasingly smaller pieces known as microplastics that are next to impossible to remove, and are found throughout the food chain, from tiny zooplankton to marine mammals,” says Rachel Schoeler, Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup (GCSC) manager. “That’s why we’re working to keep shorelines clean, in order to stop plastic from entering the water in the first place.”

Do your part to keep plastic bottles out of our ocean ecosystems but transforming your recyclables into your own personal aquarium!



Source: <http://craftscollection.net/?p=1734>

Materials

- Clean plastic bottle (large or small – fish come in all sizes!)
- Googly eyes (or use leftover bottle caps as eyes!)
- Permanent marker
- Newspaper
- Thinned white glue or Mod Podge
- Paint brushes
- Paint (acrylic works best, but be careful – it stains!)
- Scissors
- Hot glue/hot glue gun or masking tape
- Fishing line or string

Steps

1 – Use scissors to cut off the end of the plastic bottle about two inches from the bottom. Pinch the bottom edges together, and draw a tail shape using a permanent marker. Cut out the tail (be careful of sharp edges! If you would like your fish to have a fin, you can flatten out your remaining plastic bottle and draw a fin shape it cut out.

2 – Pinch the tail end of the bottle together, and secure with either hot glue or masking tape. Secure the optional dorsal (back) or ventral (stomach) fin the same way!



3 – Tear your newspaper into pieces. Like paper maché, cover your bottle in glue and cover with the newspaper strips/squares. Ensure the whole bottle (including tail and fin) are covered, then set aside to dry.

4 – Once dry, paint your fish any pattern you like! For some examples of tropical fish to use as inspiration, check out this webpage by Sea and Sky: <http://www.seasky.org/coral-reef-life/coral-reef-fishes.html>

5 – Secure a string or fishing line to your fish and hang in your home!

Note: If you don't have newspaper, you can always paint your plastic bottle directly. Your fish won't have a 'matte' look, but will look beautiful in front of a window! More examples here:

<https://meaningfulmama.com/water-bottle-fish-craft.html> and <https://reusegrowenjoy.com/plastic-bottle-fish-craft/>



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