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Beautify Borders

Spruce up an old fence by drilling holes slightly smaller than a marble in each plank. Next, place colored marbles in each hole. When the sun shines, the marbles will create a mosaic effect.

Old futon frames can be used as a sliding gate by placing the frame on its side and bolting one side to a post. String a thick wire through the top of

the frame, then attach the wire to the posts on either side of the frame. This will help to keep the gate from swaying back and forth on a windy day. For more in depth instructions visit this website: <http://www.apartmenttherapy.com/reader-tip-futon-frame-turned-58683>

Glass bottles can be used as edging around flower beds. Either push the neck of the

bottle into wet/moist ground to a desired depth or use a long trowel to dig down far enough. Put bottles in neck first, then give them a push to secure. Lastly, scrunch dirt around the bottles.

Environmentally, it's recommended to take labels off and toss into the trash before placing bottles into the soil.



Stump the Grump

What do 33 million tons of food and Americans have in common?

33 million tons of food are disposed in landfills by Americans each year!

Let's reduce this amount by composting what we can, only buying what we need, and put as much on our plate as we can eat.



Newspaper Mulch

Newspaper is a natural way to keep weeds under control. Spread them over open spaces of the garden, leaving an opening around each plant. Then cover with a thin layer of compost, grass clippings, leaves, soil or mulch. You

only need enough to cover the newspaper and keep it from flying away or tearing when you walk over the top.

The papers will let water drain into the soil, but will block weeds from growing. News-

paper keeps the ground moist longer than non-covered soil which is great for sandy soils or drought intolerant areas.

One application of newspaper and mulch should last an entire growing season.

Repurposed Ideas for the Garden

Crutches

Old crutches make great trellis poles for climbing vines such as beans.



Plastic Pots

Cover old pots or 5 gallon buckets with bark, paint, burlap, or material scrap for a fresh look.



Tires

Tires can be repurposed into raised beds or fancy shapes like the donkey below.



Grills

Remove grates then fill with dirt and flowers. Paint for added zest.



Windows & Frames

Old windows and frames make fun plant holders, trellises, green houses, and work stations.



Gutters

Attach old gutters to the side of your house, garage, or shed. Fill with dirt and plant plants with shallow roots. Great for herbs!



Raised Beds

If your soil is poor or you need more space than containers will provide, raised beds are for you. By building your garden up instead of down, you're able to control weeds, prevent soil compaction, and provide good drainage. Leftover wood or plastic lumber, cinderblocks or other building materials, can all be repurposed to make a raised garden bed. Ask friends, neighbors and nearby construction sites if they have building materials they want to

get rid of; you'll be saving them from having to dispose of them, while saving yourself some expense.

There is some concern about the chemicals used to pressure-treat wood. If you suspect the wood you want to use is pressure-treated, you can wrap a layer of heavy plastic around the lumber before placing it into the bed or not use it at all.

Shutters are used to keep the raised bed on right in place.



Get Creative with Outdoor Décor



Pots can be transformed into cute people with some wire, glue, and props as seen above. Below, pots are cut open and painted to create lovely flowers.



These dragon flies are made from fan blades and bed posts.



Faucets can be used as hooks for the garden shed.

Rain boots make colorful hanging planters.



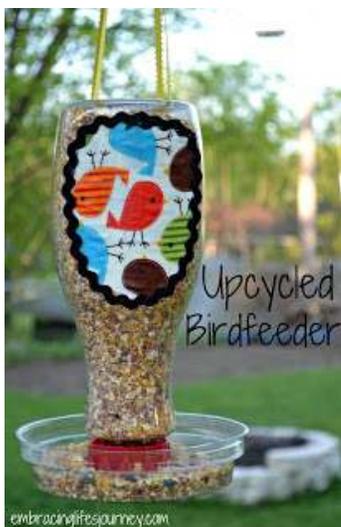
For the more skilled artist the picture above uses a red faucet handle to create a flower in this adorable scene. Other items used are a wrench, wires, and gears.

Birds Benefit from Reuse



The steel cans on the left have been reused to create colorful feeders.

On the right, a small metal slinky wrapped around a metal clothes hanger has been transformed into a bird feeder. Fill with larger bird seed.



An orange juice container is the basis for this feeder. Learn how to make it by following the link below:

<http://www.embracinglifesiourney.com/2012/05/upcycled-birdfeeder.html>



This bird house is made of a 2 liter soda bottle and cut up CDs. Learn how to make it by following the link below:

<http://www.favecrafts.com/Green-Crafting/Plastic-Bottle-Birdhouse/ml/1>

Soda Bottle Hanging Planters



Hanging Planter on Left:

1. Remove labels
2. Cut a hole on either side of the bottle approx 1/2 way or 3/4 of the way from the bottom of the bottle
3. Punch 4 holes through the neck of the bottle and string twine through holes
4. Fill with soil and plants
5. Hang and Enjoy

Hanging Planter on Right:

1. Cut the bottom third of the bottle off
2. Place tape around the sharp edge
3. Punch holes on either side of the bottle then string twine through holes
4. Fill with soil and plants
5. Hang and Enjoy



Visit the Urban Gardener to see a video on how to make the hanging planter on right.

<http://www.urbanorganicgardener.com/2009/08/starting-a-hanging-herb-garden-using-recycled-soda-bottles/>