

Make your own Eco Christmas Decorations

Tinsel and baubles may look great on your tree, but the landfill sites they end up on aren't quite as attractive. Try making your own dough Christmas decorations which are not only fun to make they can be used year after year.



DOUGH ORNAMENT RECIPE

4 Cups all-purpose flour
1 Cup salt
1 1/2 Cups cold water
cookie cutters
Clear varnish
Ribbons for hangers

IN mixing bowl add flour and salt together. Slowly add water while stirring with a fork until soft dough forms. Turn out on lightly floured surface and knead until smooth, adding a small amount of water or flour, if needed. Roll dough on a floured surface to 1/4 inch thickness. Cut with cookie cutters. Place ornaments 1 inch apart on a non-greased baking sheet. With a drinking straw, poke holes in the

top for hanging. Bake in a preheated 120° oven for 2 - 2.5 hours. Allow to cool completely. Paint and decorate ornaments. Once paint is dry seal with a clear varnish.

Decorating Tips:

Use utensils such as a forks, knives and toothpicks to make designs on the dough

If using extra bits of dough to add appliques to your ornament, put a dab of water on the ornament where applique is desired, then top with applique. Baking will "cement" the applique in place.

Decorate with old recycled buttons, beads and ribbons.

Personalize family members names on the ornaments.

Summer Gardening Survival Tips

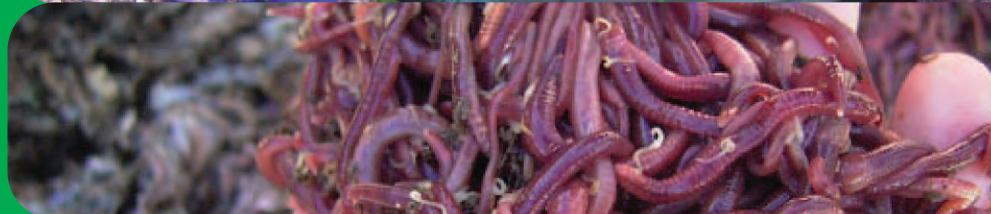
As the hot summer months approach, it is important to ensure gardens are in excellent shape waterwise.

- Top up mulch to a minimum depth of 50mm. Mulch inhibits weed growth, returns nutrients to the soil and reduces evaporation. A garden that has been well mulched will generally require half as much water.

- Apply a soil wetting agent to your lawn and garden beds. This will help prevent the soil from repelling water
- Use efficient devices such as trigger nozzles, watering wands and irrigation timers. Install aqua spikes and drip irrigation to ensure water gets directly to plant roots with minimal evaporation.
- Lawns use large amounts of water so try to keep lawn areas to a

minimum. Lawns are best watered using subsurface irrigation which delivers water straight to the roots.

- Water longer and less frequently. This encourages the development of deep root systems, which make plants more drought tolerant.
- Select the right plants. Choose plants local to the area and group plants with similar water requirements together.



Say no! to plastic Bags

Why Say No to Plastic Bags? Plastic bags are a serious threat to our environment and natural resources - not only do they spoil our streets and waterways - they can also take up to 1000 years to break down. The financial cost of rectifying

environmental problems caused by plastic bag waste and litter is enormous, not to mention the total economic cost to the Australian retail sector of supplying plastic bags to customers.

Did You Know...?

Australians use 3.92 billion plastic bags a year, that's over 10 million new bags being used every day. An estimated 3.76 billion bags or 20,700 tonnes of plastic are disposed of in landfill sites throughout Australia every year. Australians dump 7,150 recyclable plastic bags into landfills every minute or 429,000 bags every hour. Almost half of these bags are given away by non-supermarket retailers such as newsagents, discount stores, pharmacies, fruit and

vegetable shops, liquor stores and take-away outlets.

Plastic bags suffocate, disable and kill thousands of marine mammals and sea birds worldwide each year. When the animal dies and decays, the plastic bag is free again to repeat the deadly cycle.

It only takes 4 grocery trips for an average Australian family to accumulate 60 plastic shopping bags. Australians throw away about 7,150 recyclable plastic bags a minute, with 429,000 recyclable plastic supermarket bags dumped in landfill every hour. Plastic made up four of the top ten items found on Clean Up Australia Day 2006, this included plastic supermarket bags. Plastic accounted for 33% of all



rubbish found. Of this plastic rubbish, plastic bags accounted for 7.6%.

What can we do...?

Recycling your plastic shopping bags is one of the most obvious courses of action, however only 10% of Australian households take their plastic bags to a collection point for recycling. The best thing we can do for the environment is simply reuse, or better yet, refuse a plastic bag when we go shopping. Easy!

Christmas Greenings!

Kalgoorlie Boulder Urban Landcare Group would like to wish everyone a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year!

Keep it green and keep it clean!

Thank you to all our valued sponsors

