

TIPS FOR PAINTING YOUR BIRDHOUSE



What Color(s) Should I Paint My Birdhouse?



*Birdhouses should be painted with camouflage colors like **gray**, **green**, and **brown** that suit their natural environment and keep the birds safe. Birdhouses should not be painted black as they can get heated up in summer. Additionally, birdhouses painted white can reflect heat well during the summer, preventing overheating in the birdhouse.*

DID YOU KNOW?

Birds do not like colorful birdhouses because they attract too much attention from predators. Birds like to live in birdhouses that are camouflaged-colored: grey, green, brown. While attractive to humans, colorful birdhouses can cause lethal harm to birds inhabiting them.

What Kind of Paint Should I Use?

***Oil-based, latex, acrylic, or watercolor paints** are safe paints for painting birdhouses. Birdhouses are safe to be painted everywhere except at the entrance holes, ventilation holes, and insides of the birdhouse as birds may accidentally consume the paint.*

Pros/Cons of Acrylic: You like **mixing paint colors up** to create more patterns and designs. You compromise on **durability and application to your wooden birdhouse**

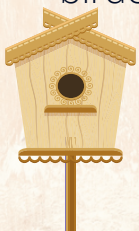
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The best colors for a birdhouse depend on the house type and where it will be situated. In general, natural camouflaged colors such as **gray, dull green, brown, or tan** help the house blend into its environment and keep nesting birds safe from predators. If the house will be mounted in a colorful flower garden, however, choose **more colorful paints that coordinate with nearby floral hues**. White paint is recommended for purple martin houses to help reflect heat away from these open area houses, and any house in a sunny area can benefit from that heat reflection on hot summer days. Florescent, metallic, or iridescent paints should generally be avoided because of their overly dramatic brightness and other additives in the paint that could be harmful to wildlife.

To properly paint a birdhouse:

- Avoid painting the inside of a birdhouse or around the lip of the entrance hole. Growing birds may peck at surfaces and could ingest paint chips, or small chips of paint could get into hatchlings' delicate eyes.
- When painting, take care that the paint does not block or seal small ventilation holes or drainage holes in the house. These holes are necessary for a safe birdhouse and should be kept open and useful at all times.
- Allow the paint to dry thoroughly for several days before mounting the house for birds to use. This will allow potentially toxic odors to disperse before birds investigate the house, and will keep those odors from attracting nearby predators.
- When cleaning the birdhouse at the end of each breeding season, check for peeling paint, chips, or fading. Repaint or reseal the house as necessary to keep the paint job in good, safe condition.

Painted appropriately with safe colors and non-toxic paints, a painted birdhouse can be attractive to birds. A brightly colored, highly visible house, however, may not attract tenants if more suitable nesting sites are available. By choosing paints, colors, and designs carefully, birders can enjoy attractive, decorative birdhouses where birds will be happy to take up residence.



The Spruce / Olivia Inman



ADULT DIY: BIRDHOUSE



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ALL YOU NEED TO MAKE A SIMPLE WATER STATION IN YOUR GARDEN FOR BEES AND OTHER INSECTS IS A SHALLOW CONTAINER AND SOME STONES, MARBLES OR TWIGS FOR THEM TO LAND ON.

DIY BEE WATER STATION

- TERRACOTTA POT AND SAUCER
- GLASS MARBLES (OR ROCKS)
- GLUE
- NON-TOXIC PAINT



STEP 1: PAINT YOUR POT

STEP 2: GLUE BOTTOM OF SAUCER TO BOTTOM OF POT

STEP 3: ADD ROCKS OR MARBLES

STEP 4: ADD WATER AS NEEDED