



Easter Crafts—Making Nests

Easter is around the corner. There are many ways of creating your own nests. Let the Easter Bilby choose the favourite. Here are activities for the entire family with varieties suitable for all age groups. The drying may take a little longer for some, but there is still ample time till Easter. Let's take you through the paces step by step for nests made of paper or fabric.

What do you need?

- A cereal bowl
- Petroleum jelly/Vaseline
- Cling wrap
- Wall paper paste (alternatively make your own paste with corn starch, see <https://pagingfunmums.com/2013/11/09/homemade-glue/>)
- Two different types of fabric for our first nest, cut into small pieces

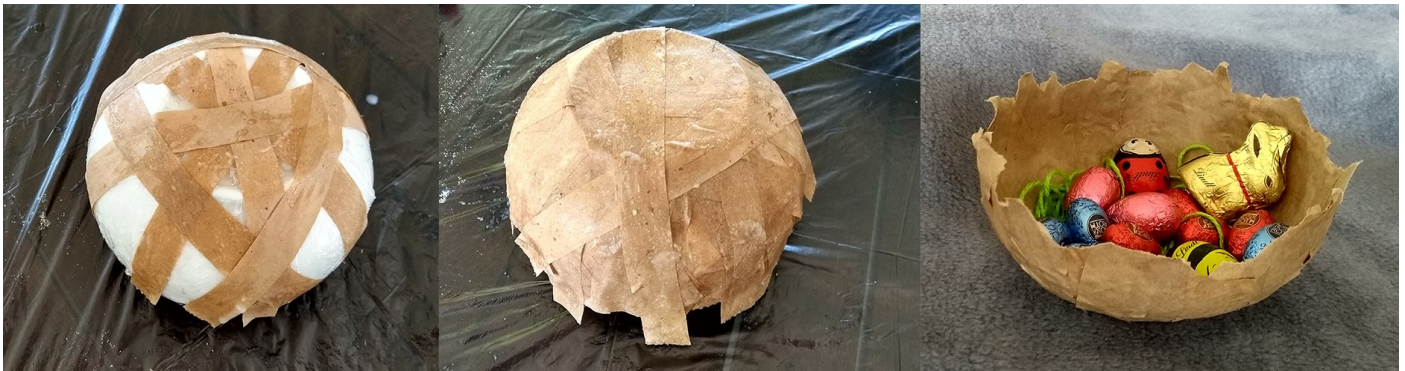


Follow the sequence of actions described below:

1. Cover your work surface. This is messy.
2. Turn the bowl over and coat with petroleum jelly.
3. Cover the coated underside of your bowl with cling wrap and let the overhang disappear into the bowl (a substantial length will make it easier to pull the bowl out of the nest once the drying process has started hours or even a day later).
4. Prepare a jar full of wallpaper paste (alternatively paste made from corn starch).
5. Take fabric pieces of one type, coat with wallpaper paste and press onto bowl (cling wrap) with the face down. Cover the entire bowl with overlapping fabric pieces.
6. Continue with fabric pieces of a different type and repeat the process of putting overlapping pieces down, this time with the face up until the bowl is covered.

7. Place bowl on top of a jar or can with underside up, and let the nest dry at least overnight. Depending on weather conditions and thickness of material, the drying process may take longer. However, once it has dried the outside you may want to gently try pulling the bowl out of the nest via the cling wrap. Don't force it or your nest will collapse. Be patient. Once you are able to pull the bowl out, the drying process will speed up.

The same process can be followed when making a paper nest whether it's created from strong colour paper, brown paper bags or newspaper (the latter two may require double layers of strips or pieces to retain the strength required for a nest).



If you have a paper shredder at home you can basically use anything from flyers to newspapers to used obsolete colour paper. Take a small handful of the shredded paper, dunk it into the wallpaper paste (don't try with cornstarch) and paste onto the cling wrap on a bowl. You can, of course, also use balloons to shape your nests. However, be aware that balloons lose air and you may find yourself having to blow them up before the drying process has finished. Also, be aware that children use a lot of glue, and the weight of the combined paste and paper may see the clumps slide down the bowl or the balloon. Gently put back into place, and teach children not to overuse resources. The shredded paper nests can be very attractive, but making them can also be very messy.

