



Making the Feeder

With only a few simple steps, you can turn a basic pinecone into a delicious bird feeder.

1. Shake, tap, or brush the pinecone lightly to remove any dirt or debris. Trim off any loose scales that may break as the feeder is assembled. If the scales are tightly packed, removing a few will make more room for food.

2. Tie the string or twine

around the feeder, placing it two to three rows of scales below the wider end of the cone with the scales overlapping the string to hold it securely in place. The top of the string can be left open in order to tie it to a branch for hanging, or if it is long enough, the loop can be tied first.

3. Use the knife or spreader to coat the cone with a layer of peanut butter, as thick or thin as desired. Press some butter between rows of scales, filling in larger gaps. If the butter is too thick to spread well, it can be warmed up slightly to make it softer but be sure to use a microwave-safe container to heat it. Avoid overheating that will make the peanut butter too runny to adhere to the cone well.
4. Once the cone is completely coated with peanut butter, roll it in the birdseed in the shallow dish, pressing lightly to keep the seed adhered to the cone. Work the seed in between the rows of scales. Add larger seeds, nut pieces, or fruit pieces if desired, pressing them firmly into the peanut butter so they are secure. The birds will have no trouble removing them!

Adding the seed is an optional step and isn't necessary to make a tasty, attractive bird feeder. Many birds will [happily eat peanut butter by itself](#), even without added seed. You can also use softened suet to spread on the pinecone for a treat, with no extra seed required.

If you want to make multiple pinecone bird feeders at once but don't want to hang them out simultaneously, they can easily be frozen for several weeks. The feeders do not need to be thawed before hanging and freezing them first can help them stay firm in warmer temperatures.

Feeder Placement

This is a simple feeder that can be hung almost anywhere, but it will do best in a cool, shaded area or else it may grow soft or melt. In high temperatures and humid areas, the peanut butter can start to go rancid and will be less attractive to birds. Hang the pinecone bird feeder from a branch or hook, in trees or bushes for birds to find it easily or even string several together for a longer feeder to feed more birds. Because of its high-fat content, this is a perfect feeder to offer [winter birds](#), and it is great for [decorating Christmas trees for birds](#) with natural, edible ornaments.

Before you know it, your new feeder will be a hotspot for [chickadees](#), titmice, nuthatches, crossbills, woodpeckers, and other birds. Because it is so easy to make, as soon as the birds have eaten all the treats off one cone, hang another for their hungry appetites!

SOURCE: thespruce.com

SUPPLIES INCLUDED:

- 1 pinecone
- 1 container of lard
- 1 piece of twine
- 1 package of bird seed
- 1 plastic knife
- 1 shallow dish