

Creating Woodland Creature & Fairy Houses

The story goes that if you build a woodland creature or fairy home, and leave it in your garden, you might attract one of these magic creatures into your backyard! Even if you don't believe in stuff like this, it is still a great hands-on project that will add a personal creative flare to your garden, and a fantastic way to unleash your child's creativity.

Start with the design

Imagine your woodland creature or fairy house. They can be short and fat, tall and skinny, simple, or ornate. Decide which style you like before you start planning your design. Sketch your house onto a piece of paper. Think about where windows, doors and chimneys might go. Remember, it needs to be physically possible for you to construct the house, so don't get too carried away!

Choose your starting materials

Decide what to build the base of the house out of. You can use a milk carton, a birdhouse, cardboard, wood, or twigs to make the house structure. You can even transform a dollhouse into a woodland creature or fairy house. Remember that you will be decorating it at the end; even if you don't like the way the structure of the house looks, you can cover this up later on.

Gather materials from the woods or your garden

Find leaves, mosses, branches, pebbles, acorns, dried grasses, and other natural items to decorate the house. If you plan to glue the house together using hot glue, make sure the materials are dry; glue won't stick to anything wet.

Build a base for the house (optional)

If you want to keep your woodland creature or fairy house indoors, it might be nice to make a base to set the house on. Take an old piece of cardboard or scrap wood and decorate it to look like an outdoor setting. Add moss to look like grass, twigs to look like miniature trees, and pebbles to look like boulders. You might even want to build your house in a container garden.

Putting your woodland creature or fairy house together

Glue cardboard, wood, and other materials together using a hot glue gun or wood glue. If you feel up to the challenge, you might want to try making the house out of clay- oven-baked; clay is great for turrets or windows. You can add towers by using paper towel tubes, toothpaste boxes, or whatever else you can think of. Be creative!

Create an inside world for your woodland creatures or fairies

Cover the floors with sand, leaves, or moss to create soft flooring. Make a hammock from a fern or a piece of stocking and add scraps of fabric for curtains. Turn an upside-down teacup or saucer into a table and use acorn caps as bowls. You can even add “wallpaper” made of dried leaves, old postcards, or hand-made paper. If you want to add furniture, you can either use doll furniture or make your own.

Helpful tips:

- To make a table, gather some dry twigs, both skinny and thick, from your backyard. Cut four pieces and glue them together to form a rectangular frame that’s the size you want the tabletop to be. When this has dried, lay twigs across the top and glue them to the frame. When the top has dried, cut four pieces to the same length and glue them underneath to form the table legs.
- Clay furniture is much easier to make. There are no real directions: just carefully mold some air-dry or oven-bake clay into furniture.

Creating habitat for Native Species

Want to build habitat and encourage native wildlife, check out our [Taking Action For Wildlife](#) page for more ideas and suggestions.

