

# Upcycled Seed Starter Ideas



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Starting seeds outside is as simple as getting seeds, soil and an appropriate container to plant them in. Here are some “upcycled” examples of things you can use to start your seeds in.



Here is a great way to reuse paper rolls and a large milk carton:

- Cut the large milk carton in half, \*adults\* may choose to use a utility knife to cut the milk carton in half, or you may use scissors.
- Poke holes in the bottom of the milk carton and unscrew the lid.
- Make pots out of the toilet paper rolls by cutting four slits and folding them in, fill them with soil and place them in the bottom of the milk carton.
- Water the soil to ensure it is moist and place your seeds on top of the soil. Some seeds will need to be surface sown if they are very small, and if the seeds are larger, only cover them with soil the same depth as the seed.
- Cover the seeds to ensure rodents don't eat them: pinch the bottom half of the milk jug and fit the top half on, make sure that the lid is unscrewed.
- Place this in a safe area, and when temperatures start to get around 10 degrees, take the top part of the milk carton off and make sure the soil stays moist, so water if needed.

Check on the seeds once per week as temperatures start to warm up. If the seeds have sprouted, remove the top and place in the sunshine! When your seedlings have a 2nd or 3rd set of true leaves, you can transplant into your garden!

## Other containers to use for germinating seeds:

Here is another example using jugs or plastic bottles. This method ensures the seeds stay safe from rodents. You will have to make holes at the bottom of the containers, and ensure the top portion stays together using tape, or fitting the top piece on the bottom piece like the large milk jug example. Remember to take the lid off when the seeds sprout or daytime temperatures rise!



Using an egg carton also works! Make sure you keep the lid and close up the egg carton after you have sown the seeds to protect from rodents. You will then take the lid off when daytime temperatures start to rise, and the seeds will sprout!

Using old plant containers also works, but requires some sort of cover or fencing around to protect from rodents.



Labelling your containers helps to remember what you have planted. You may want to write out the names of plants on a piece of paper, and use tape to waterproof the label on both sides. A labeled popsicle stick also works, painted rocks or cutting up a yogurt container for labels. You can also simply write the names on the inside of the container with waterproof marker.