

# Upcycled Hummingbird Feeder

rock by rock   
Project Resources

**About:** This DIY guide explains visually how to make an upcycled hummingbird feeder and hummingbird nectar and provides background information about the colors hummingbirds can see,

## Needed:

- small plastic cups
- water bottles
- acrylic paint or permanent markers
- glue or hot glue
- colored straws
- string or wire
- nail and hammer



## Instructions:

1. **Make Petal Shapes:** Cut four or more slits from the top to the bottom of a plastic cup to make petals. Turn the cup upside down and press down with your hand to flatten the petals so they look like a flower. Trim each petal to have a rounded edge like a flower.
2. **Color the Petals:** Use red paint or markers to color the inside of the petals. Red will attract hummingbirds!
3. **Punch a Hole in the Middle:** After the paint dries, use a nail and a hammer to make a hole in the center of your flower. This is where the straw will go later.
4. **Make a Hole in the Bottle:** Keep the cap on the water bottle and make another hole about 2 and a half inches from the cap. It's easier to make this hole when the cap is tight.
5. **Assemble Your Feeder:** Put the straw through the hole in the flower petals and then into the hole in the bottle. Use glue to keep everything together. Hot glue works best. You can look at pictures to see how it should look.
6. **Test Your Feeder:** Fill the bottle with water to ensure there are no leaks. The straw should point up because that's how your feeder will hang.
7. **Add Hummingbird Food:** If there are no leaks, empty the water and fill the bottle with hummingbird food. A recipe for this food is below.
8. **Hang Your Feeder:** Put your feeder outside on a string or wire holder and wait for the hummingbirds to come!

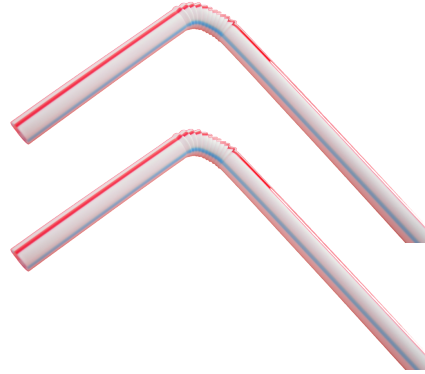
## Hummingbird Food Recipe:

- 1 cup of sugar for every 1 cup of water (equal parts)
- Dissolve sugar in hot water.
- Let it cool before placing it in the feeder.

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1



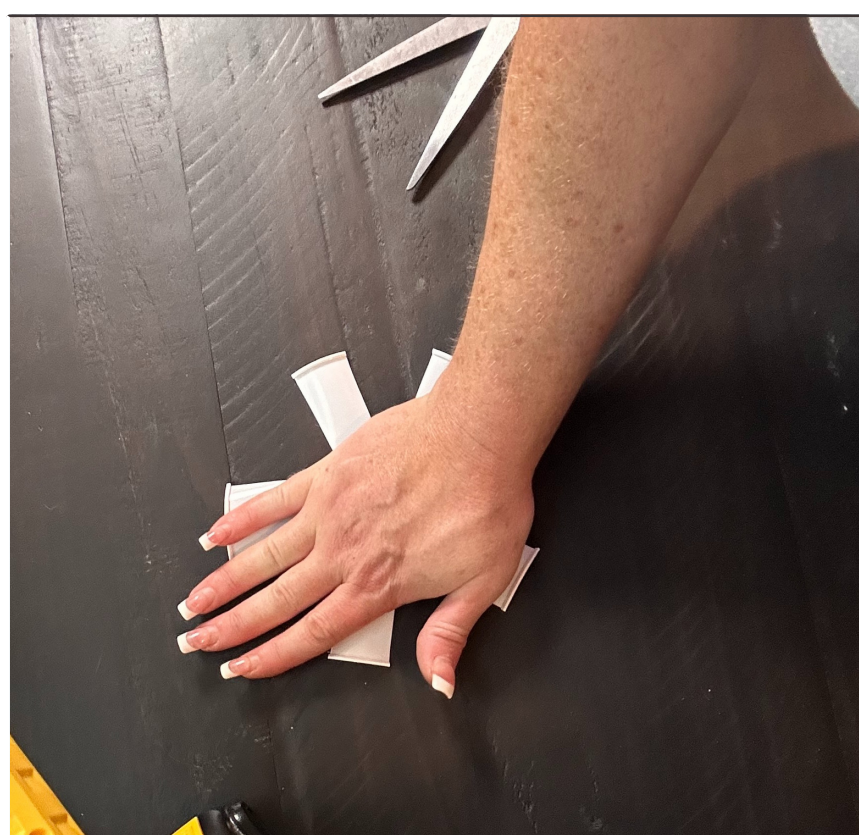
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## Materials Needed:



7



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9



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## About Hummingbirds

What is it about **hummingbirds** and the **color red**?

Red flowers and, of course, red feeders are often rich sources of food for hummingbirds. The color red often signals food and energy for their very active lifestyle.

The hummingbird's sense of color is due to the dense concentration of cones in its retina. The cones contain pigments and oil droplets in shades of yellow to red, which act like filters. The filters appear to heighten color sensitivity in the red-to-yellow range while muting colors like blue.

