



TRASH TALK

WITH

Tiffany Pratt

How to make a

DIY Outdoor Planter



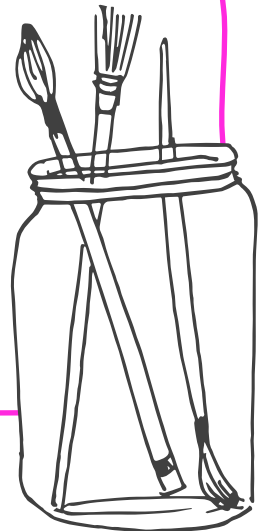
Watch Tiffany transform her recycling scraps into super eccentric and durable outdoor planters!

Turn your garbage into fun sculpture work for your personal space, or a handmade gift for that special someone with a green thumb.

Let's get started.

What you will need:

- Cardboard
- Scissors & masking tape
- Planter base (tin, cup, container, etc.)
- Newspaper scraps
- Thinset mortar
- Outdoor paint & sealant spray
- Rubber bristled brush
- Mixing bowl



While challenging your inner maker...you can come up with some really beautiful results.

— Tiffany Pratt

Step 1: Set up your work station



Save your takeout containers! Avoid reaching into your stash of good Tupperware for a creative project. Takeout containers can be reused in so many different ways because they are made from a variety of malleable materials.

Once you've gathered your materials, it's time to set up your work station. Begin by covering your table with newspaper to protect the surface from damages.

Choose an item to be your base for the planter. This will inform the overall design, materials, and planter circumference. It will also allow for an extra secure and waterproof bottom. Examples of a solid base would be a plastic Tupperware or take out tin.

Step 2: Scrap it

Use scissors to cut your cardboard into pieces of desired size and height that will work for your design. Use a hot glue gun to adhere them around your base until you are satisfied with the look.



Hot tip from Tiff:

Be sure to give your cardboard pieces a good bend to loosen them up before you glue them down. This will allow them to better take to the shape of the base.

FUN FACT

Styrofoam is super needy.

Styrofoam can't be recycled, takes ages to break down, yet is conveniently one of the most versatile craft materials. You know what to do!

Step 3: Finalize your shape

Use masking tape to secure the pieces, and fill and smooth out your edges. Ensure that none of the pieces feel loose or isolated before you put the mortar down. If your piece requires additional layers of smoothing, add strips of newspaper. Be sure they are fully secured with tape.

1



2



Tiffany recommends

Avoid weighing down your piece with too much newspaper. Be mindful that the mortar will add significant weight, and texture, so don't be afraid to accentuate some more organic bumps and curves in your design.

Step 4: Mix the mortar

Gather 2 parts mortar to 1 part water in separate containers/bowls. Locate any utensil that you can use to stir that is easy to clean and put on some disposable gloves.

Tiffany recommends

Add and mix the water in small increments. You will find that the mortar reaches peak consistency quickly, so you will want to work fast. If it's too watery, the mortar won't hold to your structure. Try to reach a good, sticky balance with no hidden lumps.

1



I love saying I make things myself. It's really kind of empowering.

— Tiffany Pratt



Side Note:

Avoid putting your recycling bin out too early on collection day, especially if you know it's going to rain. When paper, cardboard, or certain other items get wet, they can no longer be recycled!

Step 5: Get mortar'd

Using the rubber bristled brush, apply thick heaps of mortar to the structure and begin fanning it out across the surface, taking special care to cover all tiny cracks and openings.

Apply the mortar relatively thick, but not so thick that it will become super heavy.



Hot tip from Tiff:

Styrofoam balls or layered shapes can ornament your planter perfectly. Be mindful of the added weight when securing them in the mortar.

Everybody's space is so different that you can truly make your planters your own.

— Tiffany Pratt

Avoid layering any of the thin top pieces too thick, or the structure will fall over. The thickest application should be at the base.



Set your piece in a warm, dry place for 12 to 24 hours.

Step 6: Seal the deal

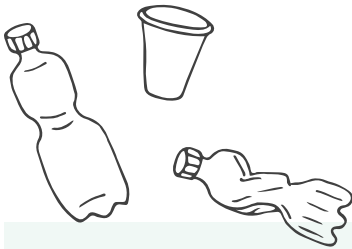
2



Decide which colours you will use to paint your planter. Use an outdoor, or highly durable paint so that your design stays waterproof and resistant to weathering.

Tiffany recommends

Use a thick application to ensure your piece is entirely sealed, and that you cover all the tiny nooks and crannies. For extra security, you can apply a layer of clear sealant spray after it's dry, available at any hardware or craft store.



Side Note:

One of the best things you can do to reduce your footprint is to learn when to use your blue, green and black bins.

For example, egg cartons should never be thrown in the garbage. They can be recycled if clean, and put in the green bin if soiled.

You're ready to recycle, let's make it count!

voilà!



Fin!



This is how Tiffany Pratt makes outdoor planters!

You can really personalize the look of your outdoor or indoor space by constructing your own organic, and stylized pieces, and use almost anything in your recycling bin to do it!

Check out [GarbageDay.com](https://www.garbageDay.com) and sign-up or download the app for daily reminders, like when to put out your garbage, recycling, compost, and more! [Get notified weekly](#) to always know which collection day it is.



Waste reminder
service available at
[GarbageDay.com](https://www.garbageDay.com)



GarbageDay



Check out GarbageDay's waste reminder service at [GarbageDay.com](https://www.garbageDay.com).

Tiffany is a big fan of the ["Which Bin"](#) feature on the mobile app (available if you live in Toronto). It's essential for her because it tells users which item belongs to its proper bin. It's a total game-changer for those who have no idea where certain items belong.



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