



Environmental Council of Huron Valley

Eco-Friendly DIY Crafts

Tested by our members, enjoyed by many!

Laundry Detergent - HE safe



Ingredients:

- 1 cup fels-naptha soap (grated)
- 2 cups borax
- 2 cups washing soda
- ½ cup oxiclean
- ½ cup baking soda

Directions:

1. Grate fels-naptha soap
2. Mix ingredients
3. Add essential oils if you wish!

Dishwasher Detergent Pods



Ingredients:

- 2 cups washing soda
- ½ cup baking soda
- 1 tbsp lime juice
- 20 drops lemongrass oil
- 30 drops grapefruit oil
- ½ cup white vinegar
- Ice cube trays

Directions:

1. Add washing soda and baking soda into a mixing bowl
2. Add essential oils and lime juice to the bowl. Mix
3. Slowly pour in vinegar, stirring as you pour. Mixture should be the consistency of wet sand.
4. Spoon mixture into ice cube trays. Let sit 1-2 days. Remove and store. Use 1 pod per load.

Eucalyptus Antibacterial Hand Soap



Ingredients:

- ½ cup finely grated natural glycerin soap bar
- 5 cups of water
- ½ tbsp vegetable glycerin
- ½ tsp (2 capsules) vitamin E
- 25 drops peppermint oil
- 15 drops orange oil
- 5 drops eucalyptus oil
- 5 drops rose geranium oil

Directions:

1. Grate soap. Add grated soap, water, and vegetable glycerin to a pot. Cook over low heat until soap has melted. Stir to thin consistency. Let mixture sit out and cool for 12 hours.
2. With an electric hand mixer, or egg beater, whip the soap mixture until it becomes smooth
3. Add vitamin E and essential oils.
4. It is ready to use! Store extra in a large glass bottle in a cool dark place

Beeswax Wraps



Ingredients:

This is the recipe that Wren Hack has used and it works. Note: I tried different recipes without pine resin from Youtube, did not work. The total cost for supplies may be \$22-\$30 depending on source and shipping. But these wraps are expensive to purchase and the amount of ingredients you have to buy to do recipe will make more than this one recipe. This makes 2-3, 12"x12" wraps

- 100% cotton fabric , organic if possible, (repurpose a clean sheet, shirt etc)
- .35 oz sustainably sourced pine resin
- 1.25 oz beeswax pastilles or grated beeswax
- 1 Tblspn organic jojoba oil
- Large popsicle stick or other compostable stirrer
- Parchment Paper
- Dedicated paint brush

Beeswax Wraps (continued)



Directions:

Go to: [mountain rose herbs complete guide to DIY beeswax wraps online for full directions](https://blog.mountainroseherbs.com/the-complete-guide-to-diy-beeswax-wraps-including-a-beeless-vegan-food-wrap).^{*} They look complicated but is really very easy. The clean up can be the hard part with wax. There is a vegan recipe on that same webpage. Below is the basic idea of how to do.

1. Wash and dry fabric, cut to desired sizes
2. Place pine resin, beeswax and jojoba oil in a double boiler or glass measuring cup and set in saucepan
3. Please go to webpage basically you melt all, spread to saturate on one side of fabric that is on a parchment lined cookie sheet. Put in 300 degree oven for 2 minutes and hang to dry.

^{*}<https://blog.mountainroseherbs.com/the-complete-guide-to-diy-beeswax-wraps-including-a-beeless-vegan-food-wrap>

Sugar Body Scrub



Ingredients:

- 1 cup either brown sugar: least abrasive, good for sensitive skin. Refined sugar: good for all skin types. Or, raw sugar, naturally coarse and good for body scrub
- 3-5 Tblspns oil: Apricot oil, Olive oil, Coconut oil, Grapeseed oil, Sweet almond oil whatever you like. These are all moisturizing oils.

Directions:

1. Place the sugar in a small/med container, small glass jar or cute small Ball jars good and look cute for gift. Add the oil 1 tblspn at a time, mixing in between. You will use anywhere from 3-5 tblspns depending on sugar and oil you use.
2. The consistency should be sandy not soupy! If mixture becomes too soupy the sugar just dissolves in a day or two. If too soupy just add more sugar. Easy!

D. I. Y. Hand Sanitizer



Ingredients:

- 2 1/4 Cups 99% Isopropyl Rubbing Alcohol
- 1 teaspoon Witch Hazel
- 1 Cup Aloe Vera gel
- 6 drops peppermint oil
- 10 drops Tea Tree oil

Directions:

This is the easiest recipe in the world because you simply mix the ingredients together and place them in small containers. This one is a spray type so I recommend using a small travel size spray bottle for it.

The CDC recommends a 60% alcohol content to make sure it is good enough.

You can make larger batches by adjusting the ratio.

Two-Ingredient Lotion



Ingredients:

- 4 ounces raw shea butter (I ordered Unrefined African Shea Butter)
- 2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil

Directions:

Gently melt the shea butter over the stove using a double boiler. (you can fill a 2-quart saucepan with a couple inches of water, then fit one of my oven-safe serving bowls over the top to create a makeshift double boiler.) Place in the refrigerator for 30 - 40 minutes to chill then whip with a hand mixer and pour into a small glass jar. The lotion will last for 6 months.

Tip: If you don't have a food scale to measure the shea butter, simply cut the one-pound block into roughly 4 evenly-sized pieces. They'll each be about 4 ounces.

Gift Packaging & Cards



Gifts:

- Use Eco-friendly materials for wrapping/packing/ribbons
 - Comics/newspaper
 - Old maps, posters
 - Decorate packaging paper
- Present gifts in reusable items

Cards:

- Consider e-cards or newsy emails
- No glitter or non-recyclable decorations
- Recycle or donate to organization

Fire Starters

Ingredients:

- Cotton/wool dryer lint or small pinecones
- Cardboard egg carton
- Old Candle wax or crayons
- Hot plate or stove and container to melt wax in

Directions:

1. Melt candle wax or crayons
2. Firmly pack dryer lint into egg carton (or place one pinecone in each section)
3. Pour melted wax over
4. Allow to cool
5. Tear off one section and use as your firestarter!



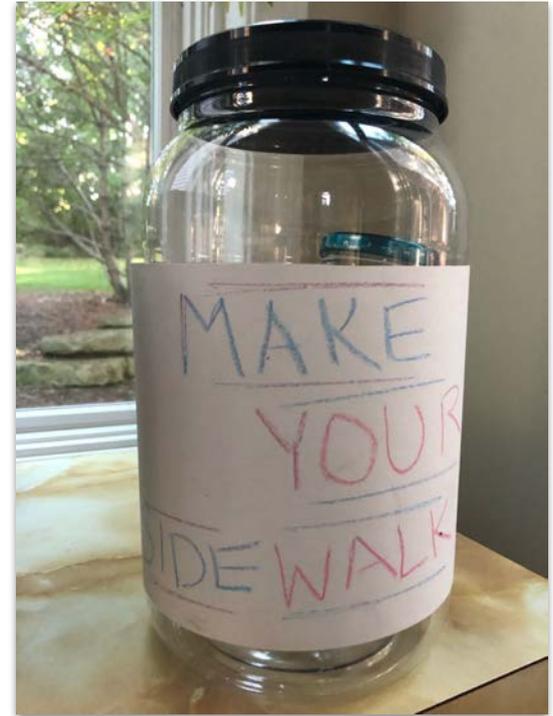
DIY Sidewalk Chalk Kit

Ingredients:

- Large reusable container (pretzel tub)
- Small jar (salsa)
- 1 C Plaster of Paris
- ½ C Water
- Food coloring
- Toilet paper rolls and wax paper or other mold

Directions:

1. Combine plaster of paris and water
2. Add food coloring to achieve desired color
3. Create mold by lining TP rolls with wax paper
4. Pour mixture into molds
5. Allow to harden



Sustainable Christmas Ornaments



Ingredients:

- (1) Gnome
 - Old piece of fabric/t-shirt
 - String
 - Small pinecone
 - Small rock
 - Unraveled yarn pieces
 - Glue
- (2) Tree Cookie
 - Piece of branch (about $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{3}{4}$ " thick)
 - Brander
 - String/ribbon
 - Glue
- (3) Nuts & Seeds
 - Seed pods, nuts,
 - Dried leaves, pinecones
 - Pillow stuffing
 - Paint
 - String
 - Glue

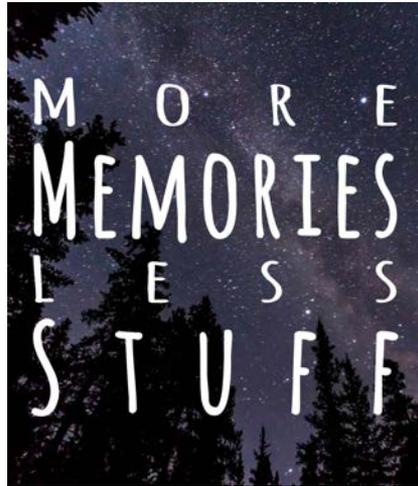
Directions:

1. Cut fabric to fit around pinecone
 2. Glue hook loop to top of fabric and yarn to bottom (beard)
 3. Wrap hat around pinecone and glue
 4. Glue rock nose
1. Find a down branch and cut to desired size
 2. Trace/draw desired image on cookie
 3. Go over outlines with brander
 4. Cut and glue string to back
1. Collect
 2. Design
 3. Glue
 4. Paint!

EcoHV Resources @ www.EcoHV.org

Dreaming of a green Christmas...
If we don't start making it green, it won't continue being white. Here are a few tips for having a sustainable holiday season.

- 8,000 tons of wrapping paper** are used at Christmas each year, equating to roughly 50,000 trees.
Be creative! Wrap in reusable items like old posters or maps. And what's more fun than a scavenger hunt? If you receive paper wrapping paper, as long as it's not metallic or wax coated, recycle it!
- 2.65 billion Christmas cards are sold each year in the US. They could fill a football field 10 stories high.
This is the electronic age so it's OK to send e-cards. For those family members not online, send one of the many you have likely already received from non-profit organizations this year. And when ready to dispose of cards your loved ones sent you, check your local school or art guild to see if they can use for an art project.
- 25-30 million real Christmas trees are sold in the US each year. While a potted Christmas tree is best, if you purchased a real tree make sure to compost it. Composting requires carbon and trees are a great source. Oakland County parks are accepting Christmas trees for composting so contact your local park for drop off details.
- Household waste increases more than 25% from Thanksgiving to New Year's. That's the equivalent of an additional 1 million tons of trash going to landfills each week.
Give more experiences and less stuff! Visit EcoHV.org for ideas. Host a green event (reusable dishes, serving ware if reusable, easily accessible and well labeled recycle & compost bins). Recycle your cardboard and Styrofoam. Visit recyclebars.org to find a drop off location near you or bring to our 1,20,20 meeting!
- About 40% of all battery sales occur during the holiday season. Use rechargeable batteries whenever possible and when those alkaline lose their charge make sure to properly dispose of at your local hazardous materials drop off.



Environmental Council of Huron Valley
Sustainable Classroom Party Checklist
Here are some ideas to help make your next classroom event more sustainable while having more fun!

REDUCE

- ❑ Avoid individually wrapped items.
- ❑ Choose finger foods to serving ware to eat.
- ❑ If needed, use eco-friendly serving and facilities (e.g. recycled content table cloths).
- ❑ Make sure to have vegetarian and/or vegan options.
- ❑ Do not offer disposable water bottles.
- ❑ Water bottles with them daily.
- ❑ Skip the plastic, disposable table or question if they really need to be.

REUSE

- ❑ Encourage kids to bring their own.
- ❑ Compost a bin of classroom.
- ❑ Have a food donation sign.
- ❑ Choose an eco-friendly of:
- Some ideas:
 - **Halloween:** Candy, paper, and markers, go.
 - **Christmas:** Salt, oil, T, T, etc.
 - **Valentines:** D, etc.

RECYCLE

- ❑ Set up and clearly label recycling bins for cardboard, plastic, glass and aluminum. Even if single stream, there is generally less contamination when you require guests separate it.

FOOD VENDORS

REDUCE

- ❑ Offer condiments in refillable containers or bulk containers/bottles instead of individual packets.
- ❑ Use eco-friendly alternatives to polystyrene (Styrofoam).
- ❑ Use paper or biodegradable straws and use available upon request only.
- ❑ Offer a vegetarian and vegan option.
- ❑ Use eco-friendly serving products (bamboo or compostable if facilities exist). Recycled content, reusable, unbleached paper products.

REUSE

- ❑ Have a food donation plan for leftovers.

RECYCLE

- ❑ Set up and clearly label recycling bins for cardboard, plastic, glass and aluminum. Even if single stream, there is generally less contamination when you require guests separate it.

www.EcoHV.org

A few of our favorite things...

Holiday Waste Stats & Solutions

Memory Gift Giving Ideas

Sustainable Events

Sustainable Gift Ideas