

## Things to Make and Do, Crafts and Activities for Kids - The Crafty Crow

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### Guest Post: Make A Topsy Turvey Planter From A Plastic Soda Bottle!



*Today's guest post is brought to you by Amida who writes at the wonderful blog, [Journey Into Unschooling](#). Here she shows you a great way to re-use plastic soda bottles or juice cartons to create an upside-down tomato planter!*

I've always been fascinated with growing tomatoes upside-down, but, \$19.99 (which was what my local garden supply store was selling it for) seemed a bit steep to pay for what essentially is a bag you fill with dirt!

So I decided to make our own using some very basic materials we had around the house.

**Here's what you'll need:**

2-liter bottle or juice carton  
Garbage bag  
Duct tape  
Tomato plant  
Utility knife  
Paper towel  
Cotton balls  
Twine

1. Using the knife, carefully cut off the bottom of your bottle or carton.



2. Roll up a garbage bag around your arm and insert into the bottle. Once inside, loosen the bag and try to spread it evenly within the bottle. The reason I used the black bag was to keep the roots covered and hopefully warm in the sun.



3. Fold the top edge of the bag over the bottle and secure with duct tape.



4. Wrap a tomato plant with paper towel and carefully insert into the bottle and out through the spout. The towel will help keep the soil together.



5. Fill the rest of the bottle with soil.



6. Wrap some twine or string at the mouth of the bottle, stretching along the length of the body, and tape in place.



7. Stuff some cotton balls through the bottom opening to help keep water in.



8. Hang in a sunny spot and water thoroughly.

Our plants have been growing strong for at least three weeks now and appear to be doing well. Within the first week, the plant flipped around and started growing upwards.



Another advantage I've noticed is that there that are no bugs on the plants! Perhaps in this way, they will survive a little longer than our usual crop and maybe even provide us with some juicy tomatoes this summer.

*Amida is a homeschooling mom of three and crafter at heart who loves to make something out of nothing. She has tried growing tomatoes every spring but never upside-down. Visit her blog at [Journey Into Unschooling](https://www.journeyinto.unschooling.com) for tons of great ideas!*

04/16/2010 in [12+ years old](#), [3 - 5 years old](#), [6 - 12 years old](#), [Activities](#), [Building/3 Dimensional](#), [Earth Day Crafts](#), [Family](#), [Garden](#), [Guest Posts](#), [Homeschooling](#), [Outside](#), [Recycled Crafts](#), [Spring Crafts](#) | [Permalink](#)



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## Comments

[Chels](#) said...

Thanks so much for sharing this. This is an awesome idea and I really want to try it! Our garden has poor soil and bugs and our tomatoes failed last year.

[Reply 04/16/2010 at 08:44 AM](#)

[Trish](#) said...

We have our in the orange home depot buckets. You just have to have one of those drill bits that makes a hole (like a door knob hole).

You can see them on my blog. They are super nifty. We've done smaller plants in 2ltr bottles - like strawberries.

<http://myhomeschoolportfolio.blogspot.com/>

Trish

[Reply 04/16/2010 at 09:58 AM](#)

[Miriam](#) said...

LOVE IT! I've also wanted to try the hanging tomatoes. I have a few almost-empty juice bottles in the fridge and can't wait to try this!

[Reply 04/16/2010 at 11:02 AM](#)

[Kim](#) said...

Another plus to doing it this way is that it doesn't weigh as much as the original version. We didn't want to drill a hole in the side of our house (like they tell you to do), so we had to figure out another way to hang it. We got a wrought iron pole (for hanging flower pots), but the tomato plant thing eventually BENT the pole!!! This looks much more manageable!

[Reply 04/16/2010 at 01:30 PM](#)

[Marcia](#) said...

What a great idea! Ms. Amida is full of fantastic ideas!

[Reply 04/16/2010 at 06:21 PM](#)

[onemotherslove](#) said...

I'm wondering if a 2L bottle will be big enough for the extensive root system that a tomato plant develops? Anyone tried it all season before?

[Reply 04/17/2010 at 03:45 PM](#)

[denise servente](#) said...

Great blog, keeping me from working

[Reply 04/17/2010 at 04:43 PM](#)

[Megan@SortaCrunchy](#) said...

This is the best idea! I have two empty 2 liter bottles stashed away . . . I knew they would come in handy for something. I am going to try these for strawberry plants!

[Reply 04/18/2010 at 06:39 AM](#)

[Rebecca](#) said...

As always I LOVE LOVE LOVE your site! You find the best stuff! Thank you for linking to our site!

Rebecca of the R&W Gals

[Reply 04/19/2010 at 08:30 AM](#)

[Rachel](#) said...

Great post, I've been wanting to try this! Thanks so much to both of you, I'll be linking.

[Reply 04/19/2010 at 03:11 PM](#)

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