



## How to...

make a recycled bottle terrarium.



### What you will need:

A plastic bottle

Scissors

Sellotape

Gravel or grit

Charcoal (optional)

Peat free compost

A humidity loving plant (we used *fittonia*)

Moss (optional)



Steps:

1.



Before you start, give your bottle a good clean. Remove any labels and wash out the inside.

2.



Mark a line about half way down the bottle using a pen or marker.

3.



Carefully cut the bottle at your half way mark. Don't cut all the way around. Leave a hinge.



4.



Add a handful of gravel or grit to the bottom of your bottle.

This will help with drainage. Most plants don't like sitting in saturated soil because their roots need to breathe. If they sit in too much water they drown!

5.



If you have access to charcoal add a couple of teaspoons on top of your gravel layer.

Charcoal can help reduce the amount of toxins in your terrarium that may be harmful to your plant.

6.



Add a good inch or two of soil.

We have used peat free multipurpose compost.



8.



Carefully decant your plant from its pot. If your pot contains several plants you may need to tease them apart.

We used *fittonia* (nerve plant) and there were five plants in one pot. Only one of these will fit in this small bottle terrarium.

Remember when choosing your plant, pick a species that likes high humidity.

9.



Using the back end of a spoon, your finger or a stick make a hole in your terrarium soil.

10.



Holding the plant by its leaves, carefully tease the plant's roots into the pre-prepared hole. Add more soil and lightly press down around the edges of your plant.

(When repotting we always hold a plant by its leaves rather than its stem. The plant will likely survive a damaged leaf but won't survive a snapped stem!)



11.



Add a thin layer of moss (if you have some) around the edges of your plant.

This looks more pleasing aesthetically and also helps retain humidity.

12.



Without trapping any of your plants leaves tape your bottle closed and screw on the lid.

Well done! You have made your own recycled bottle terrarium.

Now you have had a go why not experiment with different clear bottle shapes and sizes?

