

# How to make suet mix for birds

Feeding garden birds is an incredible way to get a close look in order to identify the species that regularly visit your garden or local nature reserve. There are plenty of bird foods available to buy, but you can save money by making your own.

## Making your suet mix

**1. Create the mix.** Gently heat the suet in the pan and wait until the suet has melted, but don't let it boil, then pour it into the mixing bowl with the other ingredients and mix it all together. The aim is to get a sticky consistency. We haven't given you measurements as the mixture can vary. It's best to start with more suet than other ingredients and add bread crumbs to thicken it. **2. Leave it to set.** Once the mixture is sticky, place it into your container and leave it in the fridge to set. **3. Hang it up.** Once it's solid, hang it up and watch the birds enjoy your cooking

### You will need

- A packet of suet, this can be vegetarian or beef suet. We prefer to use vegetarian.
- Bread crumbs
- High energy seed
- Peanuts
- Mixing bowl and spoon
- Pan
- Container (we used a coconut shell)



## Other recipes

You can basically add any combination of ingredients that are suitable for birds to your suet mix. The main thing to remember is to not add too many seeds etc, as the mixture might not set properly or be too crumbly. Other ingredients to consider are: mealworms, black sunflower seeds, uncooked porridge oats and unsalted cooked and uncooked rice. Good luck with your mix!



Watch the video at  
[www.EcoSapien.org](http://www.EcoSapien.org)

Let us know what your suet mix combinations are!

## Site and maintenance of your container

**Prime location:** Hang your suet mix container in a place where it's not easily accessed by predators such as cats. Also beware of birds flying into windows - if this happens you should move your container as soon as possible.

**Keep it clean:** Make sure you regularly clean your container to prevent the spread of disease (once a month or sooner if they look especially messy). The RSPB recommends using a 5% disinfectant solution. Clean the feeder outside, not in your kitchen sink! Also clean out the container if the suet mix becomes mouldy. Alternatively, simply use a new container and pop your old one in a bin or recycle if you can.