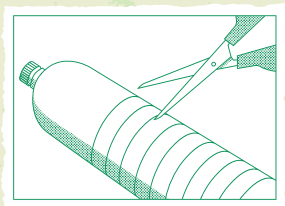
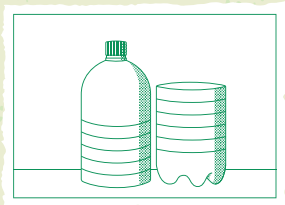


HOW TO MAKE A RECYCLED PROPAGATOR



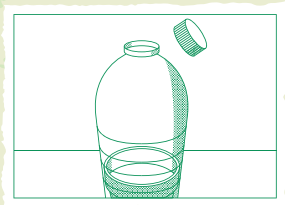
1. Take an empty, clean transparent drinks bottle - a 2 litre sized bottle works well.



2. Carefully cut the bottle into two sections using scissors (**get an adult to help you**), making the top section larger to give space for your seedlings to grow tall. Make two small vertical cuts into the rim of the lower section, so that the top and bottom fit together snugly. Be careful as the plastic can be quite sharp.



3. Find a pot that will fit inside the lower section of the bottle (**make sure there are holes in your plant pot**). To sow your seeds follow the instructions on the seed packet. Now place the pot in the lower section of your drinks bottle and fit the top section to complete your propagator.



4. Place in a warm spot, such as a windowsill, with plenty of light. If condensation builds up inside, remove the lid of your bottle to improve the air flow. When the bottle has cleared, replace the lid to keep your seedlings warm. When your seedlings have outgrown their propagator, remove the pot and keep your sensitive plant in a warm, sunny location.

If you look after your plant and it grows to maturity it might even produce tiny, pink pompom flowers, but you'll have to be super observant as they only last for one day!

Recycled propagator ideas

Get creative and start looking at how everyday plastic items could be recycled and turned into a propagator. You can repurpose a whole range of disposable containers before they hit the recycling bin. Remember to make drainage holes in the bottom of pots you use for planting.

- **Large yogurt pots with clear lids** - fill with compost and plant directly into it, pop on the clear plastic lid and hey presto, you have a mini greenhouse without having to do anything!
- **Disposable coffee cups and lids** - many seeds like to start growing in the dark so your throwaway cup just found a new use. When seedlings start to grow, take off the lid, tape over any holes and use it to stand your cup in. This will help protect work surfaces from dripping water.
- **Clear plastic cups** - place upside down over your plant pot - it's as simple as that!
- **Single use plastic food containers** - use items such as cake boxes, fruit tray packaging and other tubs to make mini greenhouses for your seeds. With small containers pierce holes in their bases, fill with soil and sow your seeds directly into them. For large tubs place pots containing your seeds into them to create the perfect seed growing home.
- **Single use plastic bags** - re-use any old plastic food packaging or bags. By placing your plant pot inside a sealed bag you will provide a warm environment and encourage your seeds to germinate. If condensation builds up on the inside just open up the bag for a while until it disappears.

