Make your own nest material spiral

Your garden birds will be well underway building their nests now so give them a helping hand by providing a dispenser containing nesting material!

You will need:

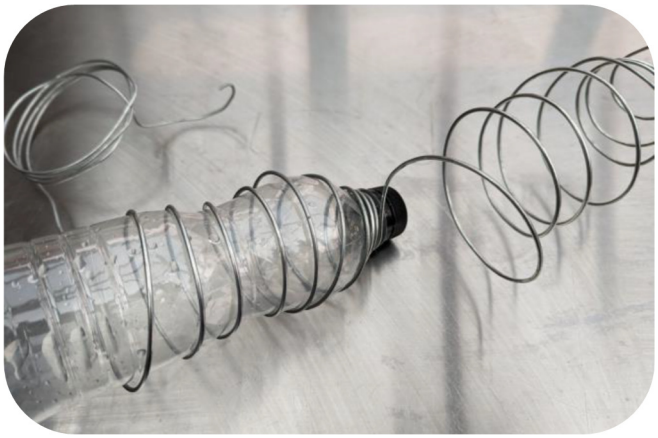
- A spool of heavy galvanised garden wire
- A small empty plastic drinks bottle to shape the wire around
- Two wooden beads or large buttons (varnished and dried if using untreated wooden beads)
- Pliers
- Gloves (to protect your hands from the wire)



Step 1
Leaving around 6-10 inches of spare wire at the top, take the wire and wrap clockwise around the bottle neck starting at the top and working down to a halfway point on the bottle.



Step 2
Once you've made around 6-8 spirals, mark the position of the bottom spiral on the bottle, then loosen the coils at the top of the bottle and slip the coil off the bottle neck.



Step 3
Starting at the bottom of your wider coils, do the same thing again, starting from the neck of the bottle, but wind counter-clockwise this time. Try to make the same number of spirals as you did for the first half, so the dispenser ends up even at both ends.

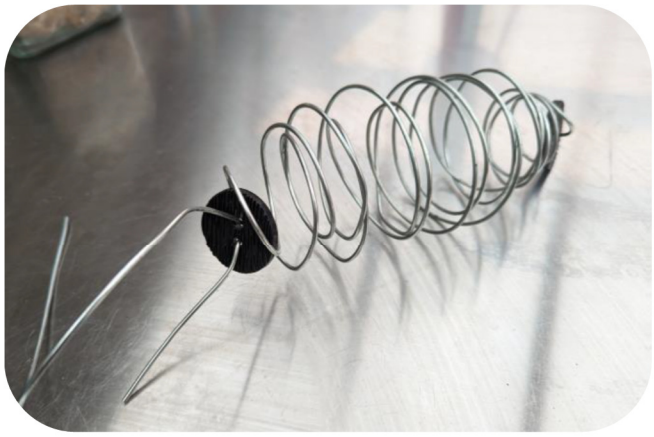
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Step 4
Again, slip your spiral off the bottle and using your hands, bend the two halves of the coil together to complete the main body of the dispenser, making a double helix spiral, narrow at each end and wider in the middle. Even out with your hands as necessary. Cut the wire off the spool leaving a few inches. You can thread a bead or old button through the coils to mark the bottom of your spiral and to help you make the shape.



Step 5
Using your beads or buttons; feed onto each end of wire and use pliers to tighten these off to hold everything together. You should have one wire a lot longer than the other – use this to fashion a hook to hang your dispenser from.

Step 6
Fill your dispenser with pet fur (don't use if you use topical flea treatments on your pet), human hair, small scraps of material, feathers, sheep's wool or shop-bought nesting wool and small twigs.
Please don't use tumble dryer fluff – it contains detergent chemicals and crumbles once it's been rained on, making nests unstable.

Step 7
Attach your finished spiral to a tree or feeding station in the garden and be patient! It may take a while for the birds to discover it, but once they do, they will be grateful for the one-stop bedding shop!



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