

# Nesting Material

Building a suitable nest is a lot of work for a bird. Using only its beak, a bird must gather all the material and construct a safe and cozy place for its babies. Birds are good at this. Often we try to help by putting out yarn bits and fluff. **Our kindness is anything but kind.** Every year many birds are injured or worse because they became tangled in man-made fibers. The best way to help birds is to remove any dangerous nesting material from your neighbourhood.

**Unsafe Nesting Material** - if it does not break **very** easily, it is dangerous!



- X any man-made fiber—it can tangle and harm or trap birds—this includes yarn, twine, string, human hair, plastic bags and plastic bits, synthetic fiber fill
- X wool - with moisture and heat it can felt, trapping nestling's feet in the nest
- X dyed or coloured natural fibers or feathers, chemicals can be harmful to little birds
- X cloth strips - threads can tangle birds' feet or wings
- X cat, rabbit fur - will felt like wool
- X laundry lint - too dusty, falls apart when wet creating dangerous holes in the nest, washing chemicals may harm baby birds

Once your neighbourhood is safe for the birds, go for a walk and collect some safe nesting material. Create a dispenser and hang it where you can watch the fun.

**Safe Nesting Material** - focus on natural fibers



- ✓ fluffy seed heads, cattails, milkweed, clematis, honeysuckle vine
- ✓ dried grasses, straw, long pine needles, dead moss
- ✓ shred dead plant stems like cheese strings (this one is fun!)
- ✓ tiny twigs and sticks- under 10 cm long
- ✓ old coco fiber liner from hanging planters
- ✓ natural cotton batting 5x10 cm strips (**not** polyester fiber fill)
- ✓ feathers from old down-filled clothing/pillows– white feathers are a favourite
- ✓ coarse dog fur (do not use fur from dogs treated for fleas and ticks)

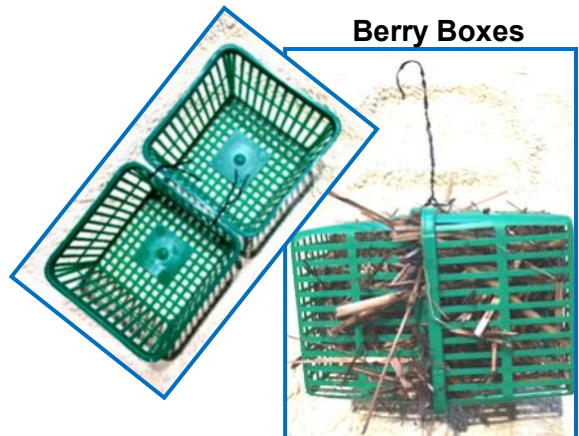
**Kitchen Whisks**



**Winter Suet Feeder**



**Berry Boxes**



**Tip:** In the spring, the dried, un-opened milkweed seed pods contain soft fluff that is fun to collect .

