

Giant rhubarb leaf dish



Patti Guminny, a gardener at the Whitby Ajax Garden Project, found a half bag of cement in her Mom's garage, and decided to use it... creatively. The results of her spur-of-the-moment technique are stunning!

- Mix up a batch of cement in a pail and keep it handy.
- Cut a circle of chicken wire that is 2" smaller, all around, than the leaf. This will be used to reinforce the finished piece,
- Build a shallow hill of plot soil, slightly wider than the leaf.
- Place the leaf, face down, veiny underside facing up, and press it lightly into the underlying soil.
- Gently add gobs of mixed cement onto the leaf back, spreading it out carefully. Keep adding until you've covered the leaf and its edges.
- Press the chicken wire onto the wet cement.
- Keep adding cement until you've got about an even 1.5" thickness. (Maybe thinner at the edges.)
- Leave it alone for at least a day.
- After the cement has hardened, lift it from the soil hill.
- Remove leaf remnants and veiny bits, from the dish, by hand or by using a brush.

Ta Da!

Paint a birdhouse

Unpainted, wooden birdhouses are available at most dollar stores and craft retailers. They come in all shapes and sizes. You may need to sand rough edges first. Give it a base coat of primer, then get out those acrylics and be creative. Finish with a couple coats of water-based, exterior varnish.

Unfortunately, no self-respecting bird will ever live in your painted house. They prefer dull, unfinished wood which won't attract predators. Nevermind. Go have some fun anyway.



Crazy chair project

Don't throw out that old-style resin chair and add to landfill. Make art instead.

Scrub down that chair to remove dirt and to rough up the surface a bit. Rinse thoroughly and let dry. Prep with an acrylic primer or exterior porch paint. Then, ... make creative patterns using quality acrylic paints ~ floral, greenery, favourite veggie, polka dots, or stripes, etc. After completely dry, finish with a couple coats of exterior water-based varnish.

The tomato chair shown here is part of the *Encouragement Path* art installation at the Whitby Ajax Garden Project.

