

# How to make Bird Cakes

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Our recipe makes approximately 8 - 10 cakes that will fit into a square mesh bird feeder. Alternatively, you can make ball shapes to fit into tubular mesh bird feeders or fill homemade bird feeders such as yoghurt pots and tubs tied with string or wire to form a hanging loop.

You can store the cakes in the fridge between sheets of greaseproof paper until required (making sure you then store them in a labelled, sealed plastic bag away from your food).

## Equipment:

- Large mixing bowl
- Grease proof paper
- Large, resalable plastic bag
- Thin disposable rubber gloves (if you don't want to get your hands messy)
- Several sheets of kitchen towel



## Ingredients

- 2 packets of lard (any variety)
- Any of the following (1 cup of each):
- Peanuts for birds
- Dried mealworms
- Sunflower hearts
- Bird seed
- Porridge oats
- Torn-up bread (or breadcrumbs)
- Raisins / mixed dried fruit
- Broken biscuits (crushed-up)
- Leftover cooked rice
- Cornflakes

- 1) Take the lard out of the fridge about an hour before you need to allow it to warm-up to room temperature (this will help when mixing the ingredients).
- 2) Get your mesh bird feeder or containers ready and prepare about 8 – 10 rectangles of greaseproof paper about twice the size of your mesh feeder.
- 3) Cut the lard into rough cubes and place in mixing bowl. It should be soft enough to squeeze with your fingers. If it's still too hard place the bowl containing the lard into a microwave for 30 seconds at a time until it is soft but not melted (ensure the bowl you are using is microwave safe).
- 4) Add the other ingredients. If you are not sure how much to add just add half at a time, then mix and knead with your fingers until all the ingredients are evenly distributed. If you find the mixture is too sticky you can add a bit of flour or wheat bran.
- 5) When fully mixed, take a handful and roll into a ball then flatten into a patty cake shape slightly smaller than the size of your square mesh feeder and put it in (alternatively, make small balls and add them to your tubular mesh feeders or fill your homemade bird feeders).
- 6) Continue and make all the other cakes and place them all on the greaseproof paper. Once you have finished, wrap them in the greaseproof paper. The cakes can then be stored in a bag in the fridge until they are needed (keep away from your other food and label clearly).
- 7) Hang your bird feeders on your bird table or in a suitable tree and wait for your garden birds to enjoy.

