

How To Make A Hummingbird Nest:

by Sarah Laughlin, Texas Master Naturalist, Brazos Valley Chapter

1) To start, you'll need newspaper strips, flour and water for paper mache, and a (glass) spice jar. The bottom of the spice jar will be the form to build the nest out of paper mache.



2) Cover the bottom portion of the spice jar with cling wrap so the paper mache doesn't stick and begin applying paper mache.

Take the cap off and turn the spice jar upside down to allow the paper mache to dry.



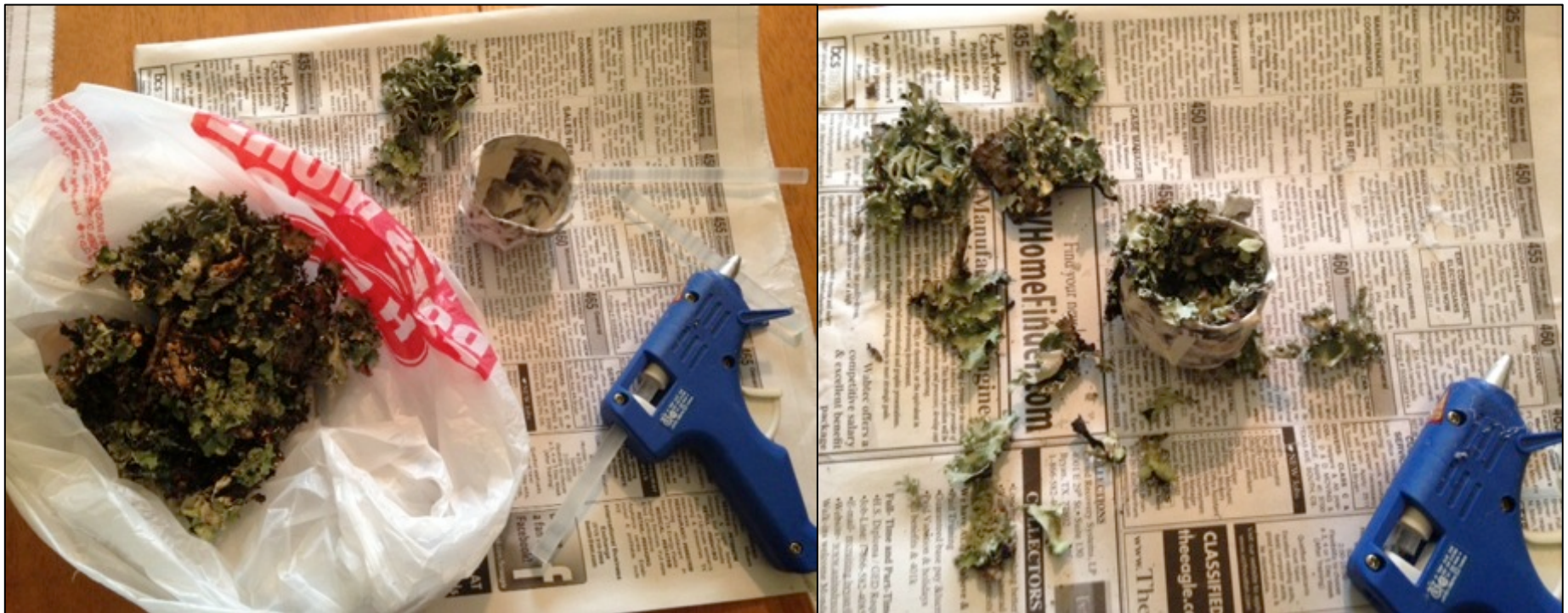
3) When dry and after several layers of paper mache, the nest can be removed from the jar by gently twisting it off. It should pop off easily.

Trim the edges and now you have the frame for the nest!



4) Next, you will need to collect lichen for the nest. Removing lichen from tree branches can be difficult. You will need at least dime-sized pieces for covering the nest. Also, dime-sized pieces are easier to glue on. If you have problems removing lichen from branches, try soaking the branches in water. Lichen is easily removed after the tree bark is soaked/wet.

5) You will need a hot glue gun to glue lichen to the nest frame. Now glue lichen pieces to the nest. Again, try and use flat looking dime-sized pieces of lichen because it will better resemble a hummingbird nest. You can also press down the lichen to flatten it out once it's glued.



6) The nest is done! Tweezers are great for removing extra glue strands. Hot glue the nest to a branch and cover glue spots with more lichen.

For a display case, I used a doll case. Michaels has them for about \$20 or less when on sale. The dimensions are 13 in x 5.5 in x 5.5 in. Obviously smaller cases can be used.



7) The finished result!

If the branch doesn't quite fit, hot glue more lichen to the ends and wedge the branch into the display case.

Eggs can be used, too!
Michaels sells little plastic eggs that are perfect for the nest.

