

Wakefield Recovery and Wellbeing College

How to make a Handmade Christmas Wreath



Nothing is more welcoming at Christmas than a cheery wreath hanging on the front door. Making your own can be fun and a lot less expensive than buying one. Taking the time and effort to design your own helps you feel festive and seeing the finished wreath on your door gives you a feeling of satisfaction, especially when people admire it and you can tell them you made it!!

Fresh foliage can be collected from your garden or hedge side (make sure you seek the landowner's permission) and you can use dried orange slices, pinecones, small crab apples or sticks of cinnamon for decoration. If you want a more modern wreath you could add bright coloured baubles or even a string of small solar lights. You can even spray the foliage with artificial snow for a festive theme.

Ideas of Foliage: Bay branches, small Conifer branches, green ivy, variegated ivy, holly, box tree branches, silver queen or any type of evergreen foliage

What you will need:

- 30cm floral foam ring (soak it in cold water before you start)
- Fine and stiff florists wire or a glue gun
- Pair of good scissors or secateurs
- A selection of foliage in different colours and textures
- ½ metre of red florist ribbon
- 2/3 White camelia flowers

You can add different decorations and ribbon/hessian to the foliage if you wish to and can make yours using artificial flowers and a wire or polystyrene wreath instead if you like, tying on with florist wire or securing with a hot glue gun.

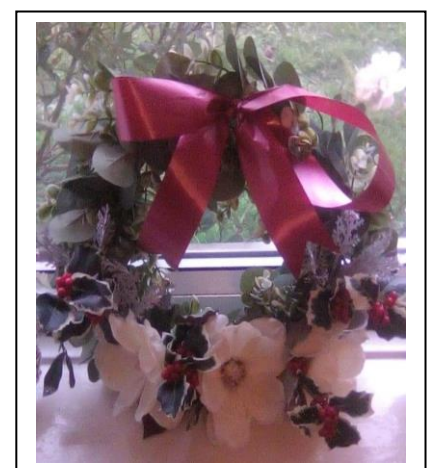


How to make your wreath:

1. Start by cutting short similar lengths of foliage (see above picture)
2. Choose different leaf sizes, shapes and textures from spiky to neat and broad and floppy leaves
3. Starting in the inner edge of the foam ring insert the sprigs of foliage all-round the foam oasis, continuing above the circle of foliage until all the ring is well covered, including the outer edge of the ring. Make sure there are no gaps of foam showing. (Tip! You'll have a neater wreath if all of your foliage points in the same direction, such as popping it all on in a clockwise direction like the image in the middle, below.)
4. Mix the types and colours of the foliage as you arrange them, so you have a good colour coordination.
5. You can now add a nice decorative ribbon by tying the red ribbon into a bow and securing to the wreath with the florist wire or you can continue to decorate your wreath. Some people like plain foliage wreaths, it is up to you.
6. If you want to decorate the wreath you can either glue gun the camelia flowers to the bottom of the wreath and add a bow to the top or you can be more adventurous and add dried orange peel and crab apples, cinnamon sticks and pine cones to make it more vintage. You can tie them on with the florist wire or glue gun them on, but they need to be well secured.



A few ideas how you can decorate your wreath can be seen above. The one below is designed and made by our volunteer Martin who is a professional florist – why not send us a picture of your wreath and we can display it in our Newsletter: wakefieldrecoverycollege@swyt.nhs.uk



NB: Image quality is due to photographs being taken on mobile devices in lockdown. If you require clearer images, please let us know.