

1000 HOURS OUTSIDE™



Ice Ornaments & Ice Wreaths





First Steps



Download this tutorial file to your computer and print it off for your personal use. Remember to laminate if you want these sheets to hold up longer!

Be sure to send your friends and family to @1000hoursoutside when sharing the ice ornaments and ice wreaths you learned to make from this tutorial. Remember to tag @1000hoursoutside as well! I'd love to highlight your creations!

Ice ornaments and ice wreaths can be made year round in any climate! Just use your freezer. But if you happen to live in a place where the temperatures drop below freezing experiment with freezing these outdoors overnight. It's a fun little way to embrace the cold and the dark, experience anticipation, and develop patience.

Please remember not to:
Share this file with others
Sell or change anything in this pdf
(including screen shots)



Winter Color



I've found through the years that the thing I miss most during the long, dark winters is color. The colors of nature are impactful on our minds and our moods. Months and months of whites and browns begin to take a toll on me after a while.

This ice ornaments and ice wreaths activity gives us an opportunity to relive the vibrant colors of the other seasons. Pulling out dried flower petals reminds us of seasons past and of the promises of things to come.

Since starting to make ice ornaments and ice wreaths we've begun to look for many ways to incorporate the colors of spring, summer and fall into our winter activities. This means remembering to save when we can in a variety of ways such as through wax-dipped leaves or flower pressing. Anything we save also works fabulously with homemade playdough.

Ice ornaments and ice wreaths are a way to experience the tremendous array of nature colors year round.



Winter Loose Parts

Spring, summer and fall are filled with a variety of loose parts for children and adults to manipulate and combine in all sorts of ways. Snow is also a great open-ended natural materials but it can lack some of the variety the other seasons offer.

I've found that loose parts from the other seasons combine fabulously with snow and with ice! We keep small baskets of things we find throughout the year and have them at the ready for winter play!

If you don't have a small stash to pull from, don't despair! There are still many items to choose from on winter hikes. Consider also visiting a local florist and asking for any scraps that you may be able to take for free or at a minimal cost.

What you Need

Ice Ornaments and Ice Wreaths

1. Every shape and size kitchen pan you can find! Ask your friends and family to loan you what they have lying around. Hunt for the most creative options! You can use anything from an Elmo cake pan, to a bundt pan, to muffin tins. A trip to a local thrift store or yard sale might lead you to some inexpensive, fun choices.
2. A water pitcher or two depending on how many kids are creating ice projects.
3. As many loose bits of nature as you can find! Look for varying colors and textures. Consider including non-toxic food coloring. You could add dried fruit and bird seed so as these melt they become treats for local critters. Use what you have on hand or head outside with some baskets and see what you can find! If pickings are slim check in with a local florist. Ask friends and family members to save you their dried flowers throughout the holiday season.
4. Twine and scissors



Step by Step Instructions

Ice Ornaments and Ice Wreaths

Open-ended projects are my favorite. Kids sometimes need time to dive into the creative process without a lot of adult intervention. This is one of those projects!

1. Pick your pan and fill it with water.
2. Add your loose parts. Older children can work to make patterns and designs.
3. If your pan does not have a hole through the middle you will need to add twine before you freeze it in order to be able to hang it up. Cut a long piece of twine and drop the two ends at the top of your ice ornament or ice wreath. Make sure the ends stay submerged during the freezing process. If your pan does have a hole through it (like with a bundt pan) you can add your twine after it has frozen.
4. Put your pan outside to freeze overnight if the temperatures will be below zero. If that isn't an option you can freeze these in a freezer overnight.
5. Once your wreath or ornament is completely frozen through, set just the bottom of it in a pan or sink that has an inch or two of warm water in it. Leave it there for just a second or two. This will be enough to loosen your ice project.
6. Enjoy hanging these outside! There are so many options!! You can make ornament garland, hang them on fence posts, or put them on a shepherd's hook. If you've included bird seed or dried fruit put them out where critters can find them!



Inspiration

There are endless options here! You can do this simple activity over and over again throughout the season. Each time it will be a delight! If you think of it, share your creations with me! I'd love to share them with others!

