

What to do in Winter

All Ages

There is so much to do in winter that is unique to the season. Nature supplies great building and sculpting materials and a vast blank canvas. Bundle up and head outdoors, there is plenty of fun to be had.

Snowmen

Stand the traditional snowman on its head, literally. When it comes to snowmen, think outside the box and get creative. Try building a snow animal. Give your snowman a task—like feeding the birds.



Snow Forts

Focus snow fort construction on the walls and special features.



(For safety, eliminate the risk of collapse. Make your snow fort with out a snow roof.) Re-purpose sandcastle molds or used plastic planter pots and containers to mold 'bricks'. Plan ahead and take advantage of a stretch of below freezing days to make ice blocks. Add a few drops of food colouring to really take it up a notch.



Snow Painting

This is so much fun for all ages! Almost no preparation is needed and costs are low. Paint the snow, snow forts, and snow sculptures. Paint some spring flowers on the snow banks and brighten the neighbourhood.

[A Little Pinch of Perfect](#)



Supplies:

- * Plastic **spray** bottles— (recycled are fine, adjustable spray/stream nozzle is best)
 - * Liquid food colouring
 - * Tap water
- (Avoid **squirt** bottles, they waste 'paint' as it sinks into the snow)

Process:

- * Fill the spray bottle with water (2c. or so)
- * Add food colouring (10 drops or so). (Parents— explore mixing colours as an experiment. For example 6 drops of yellow and 2-3 of red makes orange.)
- * Take your spray bottles outside and 'paint'. Use 'stream' for details and spray for larger areas. Experiment with up-close and far-away spraying. Pack and smooth the snow to create a canvas for the serious artist.

What to do in Winter continued

Snow Maze

Carve paths into a snowy space to form a maze. Stomp the paths with your boots or use a shovel. Ask an adult to bring out the snowblower. The walls do not have to be tall. Just make lots of twists, turns and dead ends. The fun comes with running through the paths. It can be a formal maze, (there are plenty of examples available), or a simple spiral to entertain the little ones. Older children can take on the challenge of creating the maze themselves. Perhaps the maze becomes a pretend wildlife habitat with dens, nests and food stores. There are days and days of fun in a maze.



Snow Toys

Bring out the sandbox toys. Make snow castles, villages and cities. Create a construction site and move snow and ice about with toy trucks and loaders. What is fun play with on the beach is fun to play with in the snow.

Frozen Bubbles



Any frosty day with a temperature below -10 Celsius is a great day for making frozen bubbles. The colder the day the faster they freeze and the more spectacular the frost patterns. Use last summer's bubble solution or make your own with our recipe here. Bubble wands work well. Little ones may have better results blowing through a straw in a shallow container or a saucer of solution.

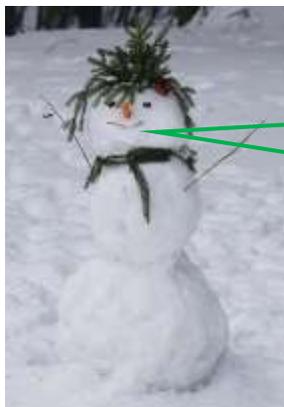
Bubble Solution

- ⇒ 3 cups of water
- ⇒ 1/2 cup corn syrup
- ⇒ 1 cups clear dishwashing soap

In a large bowl, carefully stir together the water and corn syrup. Gently add the dish soap and mix well. Avoid mixing vigorously and creating bubbles. The solution is ready to use or can be stored in an airtight container for several weeks.



Blow bubbles. Watch the ice crystals form as they freeze. Touch a frozen bubble to see how it 'pops'.



TIP: Check out our other winter activities:

- * [Snow Much Fun](#)
- * [Tracking Stories](#)
- * [Winter Sketching Scavenger Hunt](#)



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