

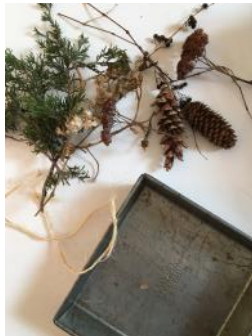
Icy Art

All Ages

Celebrate the brilliant winter sunshine with dazzling works of icy art. Beautiful and simple to make, ice suncatchers add some cheer to winter landscapes. This project combines the fun of a nature walk and treasure hunt with a chance to create an art piece. There is lots of learning about liquids, solids, freezing, and melting. This activity also needs patience. Ice takes time to form. Allow 24 hours to complete a suncatcher.

Begin with a walk outdoors to collect nature bits. Take your time exploring the environment while searching for pinecones, twigs, and interesting bits. Remember, the project is the product, but time together in nature is the goal.

At home, arrange what you found in flat pans (cake pans) or shallow containers. Remember to include a loop of twine for hanging the creation.



Set the pan outside, add water, and leave it to freeze. Be sure it is fully frozen before removing the suncatcher from the pan. It may need to warm a few minutes to slip out easily. Hang it outside where it will catch the sun.



Tip: Boil and cool tap water for clear ice or use distilled water.

Be creative. Food colouring in the water makes coloured ice.



Keep in mind as the weather warms ice melts and will drip and may stain.

Make mosaics with coloured ice cubes and shapes. Freeze a thin layer of ice in your pan. Arrange your ice cubes on the thin layer and set it outside to freeze the design in place. Add very cold water to preserve the colours or room temperature water to blend the colours. Set the pan outside again to freeze solid.



Avoid using glitter, foil confetti, or other bits that birds may eat. If using man-made bits, clean them up in the spring!



Light up the night with a Swedish candle. Freeze a bucket of water until the wall is at least 3 cm thick and the centre still liquid. Tip out the ice, draining the water. Stand the ice cylinder, wide end down. Place a candle inside.

