

Fairy Beach Houses

What you'll need for 1 small and 1 large fairy house

- 2 containers (we used a 6 oz. plastic yogurt tub with a plastic lid for the small house and an oatmeal canister cut at an angle for the large house)
 - Craft knife for cutting containers*
 - Narrow craft sticks
 - White, tacky glue
 - Tin snips, kitchen shears or other heavy-duty scissors*
 - White craft paint and paintbrush
 - Spools of raffia ribbon for small house roof (we used about 30 feet of raffia for the small house)
 - Scraps of cardboard (1 about 4-in. wide for the small house, and 1 about 5-in. wide for the large house)
 - String
 - Sand and various seashells (optional)
 - Scraps of cardboard or card stock for a surfboard (optional)
 - Tiny seashells and fishing line or thread (optional)
- * Ask an adult for help cutting the containers and craft sticks



How to make the small house

1. Wash and dry the tub and its lid thoroughly. Turn the tub upside down and cut a small door at the base of the container using your heavy-duty scissors. Snap the lid back on the tub.
2. Paint the outside of the tub and lid with white craft paint so the bright colors of the label don't show through. Let dry.
3. Use craft glue to attach craft sticks—one at a time—around the outside of the tub. When you get to the door section, attach the craft sticks above the door, leaving room for your fairy to get in and out of the house.
4. Once the glue is dry, use tin snips or kitchen shears to cut the tops of the sticks level with the top of the tub.
5. Dilute the white craft paint with a little bit of water and whitewash the outside of the house. Let dry.
6. To make the roof, create a tassel out of the raffia ribbon: Cut an 8-inch piece of raffia off the spool and set aside. Wrap about 30 feet of raffia from the spool around the piece of cardboard. Then thread the 8-inch piece of raffia through the top and tie it tightly to hold the bunch together. Slowly slide the raffia off the cardboard. Then cut through the loops at the bottom.



7. Fold the bunch of strands in half using the tie as your center. Tuck the knot of the raffia tie to the inside of the fold. Use a small piece of string to tie the whole bunch of raffia together about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch below the fold. Tie the string tightly and make a knot. Then trim the string ends. Mash the center of the tassel down on a table a few times to spread out the ends in a circular pattern. Trim any of the longer strands to give it a flat base. Brush craft glue on the top of the tub and place the tassel roof on top. Let dry.
8. Decorate the inside and outside of the fairy house with sand and seashells from the beach or a craft store (optional). We used a sand dollar for the fairy's doorstep.

How to make the large house

1. Have an adult help cut the oatmeal canister into 2 pieces at an angle. (Use the bottom piece for the large house, so it will have a floor.) Then have them help you cut a door in the house.
2. Paint the outside of the canister with white craft paint so the bright colors don't show through. Let dry.
3. Use craft glue to attach craft sticks—one at a time—around the outside of the tub. When you get to the door section, attach the craft sticks above the door, leaving room for your fairy to get in and out of the house.
4. Once the glue is dry, use tin snips or kitchen shears to cut the tops of the sticks at an angle that's even with the top edge of the canister.
5. For the roof, attach craft sticks in a row to the 5-inch piece of cardboard. Let dry. Then center and glue the cardboard to the top rim of the canister.
6. Dilute the white craft paint with a little bit of water and whitewash the outside of the house and the roof. Let dry.
7. Customize your beach house with a surfboard made from a scrap of cardboard or card stock with the template below (optional). You can also tie a string of small seashells to one of the roof sticks with thread or clear fishing line for a seashell wind chime (optional).

Surfboard template

