

# Wind Chimes



A wind chime is a type of percussive instrument constructed from suspended tubes, rods, bells or other objects that are often made of metal or wood. The tubes or rods are suspended along with some type of weight which the tubes or rods can strike when they are blown by the natural movement of air outside. A wind chime is a fun, whimsical addition to your porch or garden to enjoy on breezy spring and summer days! With just a few materials, you'll be able to create your own wind chime for display!

## How Does It Work?

Wind chimes are outdoor decorations that double as musical instruments played by the **wind**. Most wind chimes feature tubes of varying lengths suspended in a circle from a **platform** by strings or wires. When the wind blows, it catches on an object that is hanging on a string lower than the tubes called a **sail** that is attached by a string to another object hanging in the center of the tubes called a **clapper or striker**. The sail causes the clapper to bump into the tubes. As they do so, the collisions produce **vibrations** that travel the length of the tubes, producing sound waves at particular pitches depending upon the length of the tube and what material they're made from.

# Materials



## **Metal Wind Chime Tubes**

*Varying lengths to produce a range of pitches*

## **Nylon String/Thin Cord/Fishing Line**

*The suspension cord has little impact on the sounds created, but should be a material that will withstand weathering*

## **Wooden Ring**

*Or other platform that the chimes will hang from such as a branch, wooden rod, shell, or any other object that you can be creative with. You can also wrap yarn around the ring or paint it to add a pop of color!*

## **S- Hook**


*To hang the finished wind chime from a nail, post, branch, etc*

## **Clapper**

*This can be a large bead, wooden piece, stone, shell, etc. Anything that can be suspended easily by a string that will create a noise when it makes contact with the tubes*

## **Sail**

*Similar to the clapper, this should be an object that can be easily suspended, but should be flat or wide so as to catch the wind*



Once you have gathered all of your materials, it is up to you how you would like to assemble your wind chime! The suspension cord you have chosen will be fed through the holes in the metal tubes, then tied around the wooden ring (or other platform) and then connect up to the S-Hook. The clapper and the sail will be attached to a long cord that does not get tied to the wooden ring, but goes straight up to the S-Hook. This will allow it to sway freely in the wind. The tubes are different lengths and will produce different sounds when struck. Figure out how you would like to arrange them (longest to shortest, randomly) and do a few test strikes before securing them to the suspension cord. Have an adult help you secure the pieces and string it up outside. All that's left to do is sit back and relax on your porch and listen to the gentle sounds of your new wind chime!