TYPES OF BIRD FEEDERS

The type of bird feeder you use will determine which birds come to your yard to eat. Do you want hummingbirds, woodpeckers, orioles, chickadees, cardinals, goldfinches or doves?

Maybe your answer is "All of the above". In this case you will need a number of different feeder types!

Hummingbird feeders hold liquid and have very narrow openings.

Platform feeders are simply flat tables raised off the ground. Cardinals like these. Doves will eat from them too if they are not very far off the ground.

Tube feeders are cylindrical tubes with openings up and down the tube -- perfect for Chickadees and Goldfinches. Shorten the perches to keep larger birds away.

Hopper feeders are bins that hold seeds that spill out of the bottom as the birds eat. Many birds will come to these -- including larger birds like Blue Jays, Grackles and Starlings.

Suet feeders are wire or mesh baskets that hold suet or pre-packaged suet cakes. Woodpeckers love these!

Bowl feeders are hanging bowls that typically are covered by a large plastic dome to keep out the rain and snow.

Specialized feeders include pine cones (great for lathering with peanut butter), and sharpened sticks to hold orange halves for Orioles. You can also sprinkle seeds directly on the ground -- but this attracts other critters as well.

Keep your feeders clean!
It is extremely important that you clean your feeders at least once every two weeks. Use a mixture of 2 gallons of water and 1/4 cup of bleach. Let the feeders air-dry before rehanging them. When you refill feeders, shake out damp seeds that may become moldy. Remove hulls from the feeder.