



Christmas Craft Advent Calendar 2026

25 days of easy crafts · December 1–25 · tick each one off



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How to make each one

Days 1-9 · simple supplies, kid-friendly with grown-up help

Day 1: Paper chain countdown

You need: Strips of paper (about 1 x 6 in), tape or glue

Make 24 links, one per day left until Christmas, and tear one off each morning. Write a tiny job or joke inside each link.

Grown-up twist: use old book pages or scrapbook paper for a vintage look.

Day 2: Salt dough ornaments

You need: 1 cup flour, 1/2 cup salt, about 1/2 cup water, cookie cutters, straw

Knead, roll to about 1/4 in, cut shapes and poke a hanging hole with a straw. Bake low (about 250°F / 120°C) until hard, often 2+ hours, or air-dry for a few days, then paint.

Kids: press a thumbprint or handprint into one and add the year.

Day 3: Paper snowflakes

You need: Printer paper or coffee filters, scissors

Fold a square into a triangle three times, snip shapes along the edges and unfold. Tape them to a window.

Grown-up twist: fold six times for a true six-point flake.

Day 4: Pinecone critters

You need: Pinecones, felt or paper scraps, googly eyes, glue

Turn a pinecone into an owl, hedgehog or tiny tree. Glue on felt ears, wings or a pom-pom star.

Bake foraged cones on a tray (low oven) or let them dry first to drive out any hitchhiking bugs.

Day 5: Cinnamon ornaments

You need: Ground cinnamon, applesauce, a little white glue, cookie cutters

Mix into a stiff dough, roll, cut and poke a hole. Air-dry for a few days, flipping daily. Your house will smell amazing.

Not edible, so keep away from little snackers and pets.

Day 6: Handprint reindeer cards

You need: Cardstock, brown paint, markers, a red pom-pom

Paint a palm, press it upside down: fingers become antlers. Add eyes and a red nose. Fold into a card.

Grown-up twist: do the whole family's hands as one herd.

Day 7: Craft-stick snowflakes

You need: 6 craft sticks per flake, glue, paint, sequins

Glue three sticks into a star (an asterisk), add three short pieces between, paint white or silver and add sparkle.

Hang with fishing line so they float.

Day 8: Woven paper hearts

You need: Two colors of paper, scissors

Make Danish-style woven heart baskets (julehjerter): cut two U-shapes with slits and weave them over and under. Fill with candy.

Kids: start with 2 slits; experts can go to 5 or more.

Day 9: Yarn-wrapped mini trees

You need: Cardboard or paper cones, green yarn, glue, beads

Glue the yarn end at the bottom and wrap up to the tip. Add bead 'lights' and a paper star on top.

Use leftover scraps for a stripy tree.



How to make each one

Days 10–18 · simple supplies, kid-friendly with grown-up help

Day 10: Clothespin reindeer

You need: Wooden clothespins, glue, brown paint, tiny pom-poms
Glue two pins back to back so the legs point up as antlers. Paint, add eyes and a nose. Clip onto the tree.
Make a whole set for gift toppers.

Day 11: Stamped gift wrap

You need: Kraft paper, a potato or eraser, craft knife (grown-ups), paint
Carve a simple star, tree or dot into a potato half and stamp a pattern across plain kraft paper.
Two colors offset by half a stamp looks very fancy.

Day 12: Gift tags from old cards

You need: Last year's Christmas cards, hole punch, string
Cut the pretty fronts into tag shapes, punch a hole, write on the back.
A scalloped scissor or tag punch makes them look shop-bought.

Day 13: 3D paper stars

You need: Cardstock, scissors, glue
Cut two identical stars, fold each point in half (valley), then fold the inner angles (mountain) so it pops. Glue two back to back.
Pinterest trend tip: layered paper stars are big this year.

Day 14: Gingerbread garland

You need: Brown felt or kraft paper, white paint pen or rickrack, string
Cut gingerbread people, add icing details with white pen, and string them hand in hand.
Grown-up twist: stitch felt ones with white embroidery floss.

Day 15: Mason jar luminaries

You need: Jar, tissue paper squares, decoupage glue, LED tealight
Brush glue on the jar, layer tissue paper like stained glass, top-coat and let dry. Pop in a battery tealight.
Use LED lights only, never a real flame with paper.

Day 16: Dried orange garland

You need: Oranges, a low oven, twine
Slice thin (about 1/4 in), blot dry and bake low (about 200°F / 95°C) for several hours, flipping now and then, until dry.
Thread with cinnamon sticks.
Thinner slices dry faster and glow more in the window.

Day 17: Pom-pom wreath

You need: Yarn, a fork or pom-pom maker, cardboard ring
Make a pile of pom-poms (wrap yarn around a fork, tie the middle, snip the loops) and glue them to a ring.
A great TV-night craft.

Day 18: Bird-feeder ornaments

You need: Pinecones or cardboard tubes, sunflower or nut butter, birdseed, string
Spread on the butter, roll in seed and hang outside. Draw the visitors tomorrow.
Use sunflower butter for nut-free homes and classrooms.



How to make each one

Days 19–25 · simple supplies, kid-friendly with grown-up help

Day 19: Pop-up Christmas card

You need: Cardstock, scissors, markers

Fold a card, cut two short parallel slits on the fold and push the tab inside to make a step. Glue a drawn tree or gift onto the step.

Make three steps of different sizes for a whole scene.

Day 20: Snow globe in a jar

You need: Small jar, waterproof figurine, distilled water, glitter, a few drops of glycerin, waterproof glue

Glue the figure to the inside of the lid and let it cure. Fill the jar with water, glycerin and glitter, then screw the lid on tight (glue the threads if you like).

Grown-ups: hot glue alone may not hold under water; use a waterproof epoxy.

Day 21: Beaded candy canes

You need: Pipe cleaners, red and white pony beads

Thread beads in a red-white pattern, fold the ends over and bend into a hook.

Perfect for little fingers practicing patterns.

Day 22: Origami Christmas trees

You need: Square green paper

Fold a simple tiered origami tree (search 'easy origami Christmas tree') and decorate with stickers or dot paint.

String several for a garland.

Day 23: Embroidery hoop wreath

You need: Small embroidery hoop, faux greenery or felt leaves, ribbon

Wrap or glue greenery around part of the hoop, add a bow and a tiny handmade ornament from earlier in the month.

Grown-up twist: stitch a name inside the hoop on fabric.

Day 24: Christmas Eve treat bags

You need: Paper bags, stickers, your tags and stamps from earlier

Decorate small bags and fill them with cookies or cocoa for neighbors, teachers or delivery drivers.

Use your stamped wrap (day 11) and tags (day 12).

Day 25: Memory ornament

You need: Clear fillable ornament or a paper circle, pen

Write the year and a favorite memory from this December, or slip in a tiny drawing, and hang it on the tree.

Make one every year and watch the collection grow.