

Making Wooden Toys

This playbook provides steps for creating safe and durable wooden toys for children. It covers choosing suitable wood, cutting shapes, sanding, and finishing.

Step 1: **Material Selection**

Choose child-safe, non-toxic, and durable wood types such as maple, birch, or beech. Avoid woods with splinters or potential allergens.

Step 2: **Pattern Design**

Select or design patterns for the toys. Ensure that the patterns are age-appropriate, with no small parts for younger children.

Step 3: **Cutting Shapes**

Carefully cut out the wooden toy shapes using appropriate tools like saws, following the patterns accurately for symmetry and safety.

Step 4: **Sanding**

Sand all surfaces thoroughly to remove any sharp edges or splinters. Progress to finer-grit sandpaper for a smooth finish.

Step 5: **Assembly**

If the toy consists of multiple parts, assemble them with non-toxic glue or safe joint techniques that leave no sharp points or choking hazards.

Step 6: **Finishing**

Apply non-toxic finishes such as food-grade mineral oil or beeswax to protect the wood and make it safe for children to handle.

Step 7: **Safety Check**

Inspect the completed toy for any potential safety hazards including splinters, loose parts, and toxicity before deeming it safe for play.

General Notes

Age Guidelines

Adhere to recommended age guidelines for toy safety, considering the size, shape, and functionality of the wooden toy.

Regular Maintenance

Advise caretakers to regularly inspect the toys for wear and tear, and to reapply finishes as needed to maintain safety and durability.