

green it yourself



reed placemat



A great way to add some eco-style to your summer dinner parties is by adding a touch of green to your table in the form of beautiful placemats made of reeds or twigs collected from your own garden. This is a perfect way to put yard trimmings to good use instead of tossing them out.

Creating these reed placemats at home is easy and, in addition to the reeds, only requires some good hemp or other natural twine. Besides placemats, you can easily use this technique to make gorgeous table runners. Bamboo and Horsetail Reeds, two excellent sustainable choices for your garden, produce the perfect reeds for making these placemats: thin, smooth, and straight. Both will grow back quickly and easily after being cut back and can also survive well without a lot of watering. But don't worry if you're not growing either of these because there are many branch options out there that are more common and will work just as well.

## collect materials



**hemp cord**



**reeds**



**tape measure**



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let the green in 



## take measurements



1

2



Decide what size your placemats or table runner will be and how many to make.

A. For placemats, decide if you want them to be rectangular (15" x 18") or square (15" x 15"). For a table runner, measure your table top and then add the desired overhang you would like on either end of the table.

3

B. Gather all the reeds or branches you'll need, making sure they are at least as long (preferably a little longer) than your runner or placemat dimensions. If you're using reeds, allow them to dry for several days or even weeks before using them so that your mats will last. Otherwise, they will shrink within the weave, making the whole thing loose.





## make the knot



First create one loop with your twine.

1



Then a second loop.

2



Layer the two loops one on top of the other.

3





## weave the mat



Slide the opening of the knot down the reed to the center and tighten. Repeat with the next reed, forming the second knot as close to the first as possible so that the two reeds are as close to each other as they can get. Continue the weave until all your reeds are bound down the center. Now repeat the process along the top and bottom of the reeds, weaving about two inches in from the edges on each end.

1



Once you have woven your mat or runner together, securely knot and then cut off any remaining twine and trim the edges of your reeds to form smooth, even borders all around.

2



Repeat above steps to make as many of these as you want. Once you're, all that's left to do is invite all your friends over, whip up a delicious meal, and set your table with your lovely new placemats!

3

