

The Beadery® Big Cat Wind Chime

Here is an easy way to make a fun wind chime out of melted beads that represents your favorite tiger, leopard and cheetah fur patterns.

There are several species of big cats on the endangered species list. They are threatened by everything from pollution to the logging and agricultural industries destroying their habitats, but the biggest threat is poaching and the illegal trade of their beautiful furs and other body parts.

To learn more about these majestic big cats or to find out how you can help, please visit the World Wildlife Fund (www.worldwildlife.org) web page.

Our [camouflage pony bead mix](#) has a good selection of colors for these pieces or if you are looking for a specific color scheme, we have a large selection of [single color pony bead bags](#) and [pony bead value packs](#) online.



Materials Needed:

- Barrel Pony Beads
- Cord or Monofilament

Other Tools and Items Needed:

gas grill (or toaster oven that can be plugged in outside)
metal tongs or large pliers, hot pads, bamboo skewer or small screwdriver, scissors

Instructions:

Step 1: Cover the bottom of your pan with a single layer of beads in the pattern of your choice. Get as many beads in the layer as you can while keeping them in contact with the bottom of the pan.

Note: If you don't have a pan the size and shape you want, you can use aluminum foil to contain the beads as shown in the left picture. Try to get the foil as smooth as possible to allow the melted pieces to be removed easier after they cool.



Step 2: Preheat the gas grill to approximately 400°F and place the pans in the center. Depending on the size of your grill, the beads should take about 10-15 minutes to melt. Be sure to check the beads frequently and make adjustments for uneven melting due to hot spots.

***WARNING: MELTING PLASTIC MAY CREATE NOXIOUS FUMES.
DO NOT ATTEMPT TO MELT PLASTIC USING AN INDOOR OVEN.***



Step 3: When the beads have completely melted, remove the pan from the grill using tongs or pliers and place on hot pads. You will hear crackling as the plastic cools and contracts slightly from the sides and bottom – this is normal.

Note: If you heat the beads too long, they may start to bubble or discolor. When the surface is smooth, the beads are ready to be removed.

***WARNING: THE PLASTIC AND PAN ARE VERY HOT,
BE VERY CAREFUL WHEN HANDLING.***



Step 4: Before the plastic has cooled completely, use a bamboo skewer or small screwdriver to make holes in each piece to be used for hanging.



Step 5: After the melted beads have completely cooled, turn the pan over and the shapes will pop out. Tie cord or monofilament to the pieces to hang them.

