



EXPLORE IT!

Gingerbread Garbage Truck

Time: 1-2 hours for assembly and decorating

Description: Gingerbread houses are a staple of the holiday season, but even an adorable gingerbread house needs someone to collect the garbage! This unique twist on gingerbread construction offers a holiday centerpiece sure to get attention and create years of memories.

Materials List:

- Personal Gingerbread recipe
- Personal Royal icing recipe
- Icing bags
- Garbage Truck pattern (provided below)
- Candy and frosting for decoration

Helpful Hints:

- You can personalize the garbage truck pattern any way you want to.
- When cutting out the garbage truck in the dough make it thicker so that it can stand up easier.
- If your creation is leaning or unstable use frosting as a glue for the base or place something on the inside to help balance out the sides.

Instructions:

- Prepare your gingerbread recipe.
- On a piece of parchment paper, roll out the dough 1/2-inch-thick and cut out pattern pieces. With a pencil write on the parchment paper what each piece is, so you can identify it later.
- Transfer the parchment paper to a baking sheet and bake according to recipe directions.
- While the pieces cool, prepare the royal icing. Royal icing is the cement that holds your garbage truck together. *Regular frosting may not be strong enough to hold up your creation.*
- Take the garbage truck back bumper and one of the truck body pieces. Pipe a line of royal icing along the long edges of the garbage truck bumper and cement it to the back edge of the garbage truck.
- Secure the back bumper to the second garbage truck body piece using royal icing.
- Cement the front grill piece to the front end of your truck. Now you should have a firm box shape to work with. Let this dry.
- Ice the garbage truck roof and press it to the top of the truck body.
- Ice the edges of the cab roof and secure to top of truck cab. Seal the gap between the cab roof and truck roof with some extra thick icing.
- Let the garbage truck dry before attempting to attach the wheels.
- Once dry apply royal icing to half of the wheels and place on the outside of the wheel well.
- Now you are ready to decorate! Make it fun and festive, and don't forget to add broken cookie pieces or candy for your garbage truck to collect!



Table Talk:

Garbage collection is a big part of our lives and solid waste workers take very few days off. What can you do to help make the holiday a little easier for your solid waste worker?

