

CANNING JAR USES



Use the jars for canning your favorite vegetable, fruit, or preserve!! Even if you don't can, there are lots of great ways to use our Canning Jars.

Canning Jars are superior for pantry food storage. Beans, nuts, granola, kosher salt, candy, fast food ketchup packets, grits, powdered milk, popcorn kernels, rice, dog/cat treats,...you name it, it can be stored in canning jars. Because Canning Jars are narrow and tall, they take up less shelf space than most other containers.

They are so attractive lined up on the shelf and you can always see exactly how much of an item you have on hand. Wouldn't they look pretty near the coffee pot filled with coffee, sugar, and creamer? If you need the label or instructions (say, for preparing oatmeal), just cut it out and position it against the side of the jar before adding the contents. That way, it's just like reading the back of the box. The top of a standard round box of salt is the same diameter as a wide-mouth canning jar. If you cut it off and use it in place of the brass discs, you have a jar with a pouring spout.

Canning Jars are fantastic for storing soft or liquid leftovers. They don't stain or absorb odors. They don't go flying around in the dishwasher.

Canning Jars are great for drinks. They make wonderful "to go" cups--complete with screw-on lids. Use the Jar to make small batches of sun tea.

Canning Jars are also handy for organizing craft materials, handyman items, and gardening supplies. Use them to store drinking straws or silverware.

Use Canning Jars to make lovely candle decorations. Fill the Jar with potpourri and place a glass votive on top. Tie a fabric bow around the neck and you have a nice candleholder. Or fill the Jar with potpourri, place a small string of Christmas lights in the Jar, and cover the mouth of the Jar with a lace doily and ribbon. Plug the lights in and the heat from the lights will make the potpourri scent stronger and you will have a beautiful decoration! Place sand in the bottom of the Jar and nestle a candle in the sand for a quick votive holder and beachy decoration. You can even make your own candle. The glass can withstand the heat.

Canning Jars make great summertime kid activities too. Poke holes in the lid of the Jar and give to the kids to use as a bug catching jar. Place a slit in the lid of the Jar and let them use it as a bank. Maybe when the coins reach a certain level, they can use the money to buy a treat! Use the Jar to make a snow globe. Hot glue items onto the lid of the Jar to make a scene, fill the Jar to the very top with water and glitter, and screw on the lid. Voila! Your own homemade snow globe to look at and keep cool! Use Canning Jars as planters or make a mini terrarium.

Buy a kit and turn your Canning Jar into a table lamp. After putting in the hardware pieces, fill the jar with buttons, shells, etc. I believe the kits are available at JoAnn's or you can visit one of these websites:

- <http://www.cdwood.com/Store51.asp>
- <http://www.factorydirectcraft.com/lamp1.shtml>

Canning Jars also make great gifts. Fill them with some homemade goody of your own. Or make neat looking layered mixes to give as gifts. You can make soup, brownie, cookie, or drink mixes. These are great gift ideas for office gift giving, teacher gifts, Scout leader gifts, secret pal gifts, housewarming gifts, get well gifts, etc. You can find many of these mix recipes on the Internet. Here's a few sites to get you started:

- www.allrecipes.com – just type in “soup mix”, “cookie mix”, “brownie mix”, or “drink mix” in the search area
- www.nikibone.com/recipe/gifts_in_a_jar.html
- www.frugalhomemaker.com/giftsinajar.htm

Canning Jars simplify picnic packing, too. Baked beans, potato salad, lemonade, carrot sticks, chips, pickles, pudding, etc. arrive at their destination safe and sound. To clean up sticky fingers after you eat, just tuck a couple of wet wash cloths in a Jar. You don't really have to worry about the Jars bumping into each other. As long as they are packed tightly enough in the picnic basket to be immobilized (preventing them from shifting and whacking each other), they should be okay. To be on the safe side, you might want to try one of these options:

- Strategic tablecloth tucking can accomplish great things, but this is only a good idea if you use a fabric tablecloth. A vinyl one just looks too funky afterward.
- This solution is the least glamorous, but it works - raid the odd sock basket and select a few old maids to use as "jar cozies." Slip the jars inside the socks and you're good to go.
- For a more elegant affair, set your Jar down in the center of a Longaberger cloth napkin, and bring up opposite corners to tie at the top.

Using Jars saves the cost of disposable bags, is better for the environment, and makes for a much more attractive presentation!

Canning Jars are microwave and dishwasher safe. They last for years and years. Canning Jars are very durable. During the canning process, the boiling water causes the Jars to rock and rattle a bit, and sometimes they end up right next to each other. You're supposed to guard against this, but the Jars are designed to withstand bumping into each other to a certain extent.

If you like, you can customize their look with different labels and fabric circles under the rings. The basket weave detailing and Longaberger lids add a special touch already.

