

ICE LANTERNS



This winter, decorate your front porch, steps or walkway with these all natural and attractive ice lanterns!

■ STEP-BY-STEP DIRECTIONS

1. Fill the bottom of your lantern container with a little water and some decorative items, then freeze until solid. Try and keep the middle bit flat, checking to ensure the items haven't moved when they started freezing. This will help your tea light burn evenly and minimize the heat on the lantern walls.
2. Place smaller container in the middle of the now frozen base in your lantern container. Fill with stones or other similarly heavy item.
3. Pour water in the space between the two containers and fill with decorative items. Put somewhere to freeze.
4. Once completely frozen, remove the stones from the inner container and add warm water inside (not so warm it will crack your container, if glass). This will help release the container from the ice so you can then slide it out.
5. Run warm water over the outside of your lantern container to help the ice lantern within to slide out. Take outside to the cold as soon as possible.
6. Place tea light inside, light and enjoy!

■ TIPS

- Give some thought to the size of the lantern and tea light containers you use:
 - » Ensure that the width and depth of the tea light in your lantern is not so narrow or deep that you can't light the candle with a match.
 - » A wider tea light area keeps the heat away from the ice walls and slows down any melting.
 - » Very large lanterns can have wider sides to last longer or narrower sides to allow for more than one tea light inside.
 - » Also choose a tea light container that will be as tall as the top of your lantern container when sitting on the frozen base, otherwise the water poured for the lantern walls will spill into the inner tea light container.
 - » Also make sure they will fit in your freezer, if that is how you choose to freeze them.
- Save your containers to put the lantern in and keep frozen if you get a thaw. Smaller lanterns, like those made in yogurt containers, are quite easy to pop back into the container, put the lid on and back in the freezer they go!
- In case your lantern begins to thaw while carrying outside, wipe the outside with a dry cloth so that the moisture doesn't freeze the lantern to the ground, as you may wish to move them about at one point.

■ LEARN MORE

Learn more about making ice lanterns [here](#).

■ MATERIALS LIST

- A container that will form the shape of the lantern, with straight sides for easily sliding the lantern out
- A smaller container, also with straight sides and wider than a tea light, to go inside the lantern container to create space to put a tea light
- Stones or other small heavy item to weigh down the middle container
- Natural items like fresh or frozen cranberries, orange slices, little cones, fern fronds and snips of evergreens like spruce, cedar and pine
- Water
- Space in your freezer or a cold day outside to freeze your lantern
- Natural wax tea light and matches