

Gourd Tips From Members of the Fallbrook Gourd Patch

When spraying a varnish finish on a gourd, once finished, turn can upside down and spray until no more comes out to help prevent clogging the spray nozzle.

Robin Bryson

If you see a gourd you really like, don't hesitate to buy it. If you don't, most likely it will be gone as soon as you turn around.

Ledonna Garbani

1. Clean several at a time, assembly line style. 2. Burying in moist potting soil for several days makes them easier to clean. 3 Keep super glue in fridge for longer shelf life.

Sherry Hunga-Moore

Make up sponges make great applicators for leather dyes and dye inks.

Lyn Sandkaut

To easily clean a moldy gourd, wrap in wet terrycloth towels overnight. The next day scrub with a copper mesh pad and mold comes right off.

Linda Stryker

Put broken car window glass pieces in your rain stick for magical, melodic, musical tinkles. Barbara McDermott

With an awl, scratch a design on a green gourd while it is still growing on the vine. Do not go deep enough to break through the shell, only pierce the skin. Cover the design with dye or ink. Don't worry about neatness as the dye won't penetrate the skin. After you harvest the gourd clean as usual. You will have a nice natural gourd and the design will be the color of the dye.

Darlene Propp

To adjust a pattern to fit your gourd, take size of pattern and divide it into the size you want. For instance, if you have a 4 inch pattern and want to put it on a 2 inch area, divide 2 by 4 to get .50 or 50%. This is what you would reduce your pattern by.

Donna Rositani

Cut left over gourd tops or necks to make stands for your gourds.

Susan Nikkel

Always wear your mask when carving and cleaning.

Put smaller gourds in dishwasher, run with soap and then afterward scrub immediately.

To seal the inside of your gourds, sand well, preheat oven to 200 degrees, melt paraffin wax in a double boiler and paint it on the inside of gourd with a sponge brush. Keeps bugs and beetle activity out too.

Fine sand a gourd to smooth it and give it more tooth before applying anything to help it accept paints, dyes, finishes, etc. Cut the "fluff" off of feathers for a smoother attachment to gourds. Cut gourd lids at an angle, with fine blades, for a smoother fit.

For easy cleaning wrap gourds in wet rags, place in plastic bags, seal well and leave for 2 or 3 days.

To fill and give strength to an empty gourd, fill it with canned foam used for sealing holes in wallboard, etc.

Being a new member I would suggest attending classes and learn from those experienced at gourd crafting.