

Make your own Vegetable Oil Lamp



What You'll Need:

- Wire Cutters
- Pliers
- 20-24 gauge wire (floral wire is great)
- Nail or screw for shaping wick holder
- Cotton string for wick
- Vegetable Oil
- Container

Make Your Lamp:

1. Coil wire around the nail or screw for a few inches until the coil is about $\frac{3}{4}$ of the height of the container.
2. Loop the wire around 2-3 times to form a base for the wick holder. Extend the wire so it forms a handle that will stick up and out of the container.
3. Twist string together to form a wick and thread the wick up through the center of the wick holder.
4. Place the wick holder in the container and add enough vegetable oil to fill within $\frac{1}{4}$ " of the top of the wick.
5. Lighting the wick takes longer than a candle or other oil lamp, so be patient.



Helpful Hints:

Your lamp will burn any type of vegetable oil, but olive oil burns cleanest. Other oils, especially corn oil may not burn as bright and could smoke or even clog the wick. **DO NOT USE with petroleum-based fuels (like paraffin lamp oil).**

Pioneers often burned tallow (rendered animal fat). To render, chop or grind chunks of animal fat and place in a roomy pan with a few inches of water. Heat to boiling and allow to simmer, ideally for several hours. Cool the pot. The fat will separate into layers: water at bottom, unrendered fat and impurities just above that and tallow (clean fuel) on the top. Even clarified butter makes a great fuel.

Olive oil as a lamp fuel is burned in such small quantities that it is cheaper to burn than most candles. For a light fragrance, try adding essential oils to olive oil.