

HOW TO MAKE CARDBOARD SPAWN

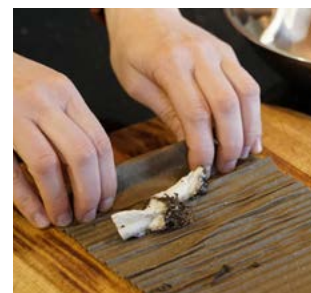
Make your very own cardboard spawn from mushrooms you've foraged or grown yourself. This technique is perfect for those secondary decomposers - the mushrooms that like a rich complex substrate - such as King Stropharia and, as we're showing you here, Wood Blewits (*Lepista nuda*). And, you can make it from everyday items that you probably already have in your home.

SUPPLIES:

1. **A handful of fresh mushrooms** you wish to use.
2. **Cardboard** with corrugations in the centre (and not glossy, waxed or super inky).
3. **A cardboard tube** from a roll of toilet paper.
4. **A plastic bag** (try to reuse one if you can).

METHOD

- 2.1 Soak your cardboard & toilet paper tube in warm water for a few hours, then pull away one outer layer of the cardboard to reveal the corrugated centre.
- 2.2 Leave your cardboard to drain until it has reached field capacity (damp but not dripping).
- 2.3 Cut the bottom off your mushroom stipe - saving the bottom 2.5 to 5cm (1-2 inches). Assuming you've chosen an edible species, you can eat the rest of the mushroom - yay!
- 2.4 Tear these mushroom 'butts' up into a few smaller pieces, then lay them on top of one edge of your corrugated cardboard.
- 2.5 Roll your cardboard up, ensuring lots of points of contact between the mushroom material and the cardboard &



- enclosing the mushrooms butts inside.
- 2.6 Put the cardboard & mushroom roll inside the toilet paper tube to keep the cardboard from unrolling.
 - 2.7 Place the whole bundle in the plastic bag and seal.



- 2.8 Put this roll in a dark, warm place somewhere in your house. Around 20 °C.
- 2.9 Check it after a week to see how it's going. If it's not mouldy, it's probably working - nice one!
- 2.10 After a few more weeks the mycelium from the mushroom butts should have started to grow through the cardboard.
- 2.11 When the cardboard is fully myceliated you can use this cardboard to inoculate a mushroom garden or patch at your place. With Wood Blewit, bury it in aged compost or with King Stropharia use it to inoculate wood chips.

- [🔗 DIY cardboard spawn - video + article](#)
[🔗 How to make a mushroom garden - free guide](#)

