

How to Make Coffee Filter Butterflies

Here's what you'll need:

- 2 [coffee filters](#)
- Washable markers (can also use crayons but the colors won't end up as bright)
- Water
- An eye dropper or small measuring spoon
- 1 pipe cleaner

You will need TWO coffee filters for this craft. Place one inside the other so they fit together well.

I recommend placing the coffee filters on a cookie sheet to keep the mess contained.



Flatten out the coffee filters a little. They don't have to be perfectly flat, just flat enough that you can colour on them.



Colour your creative designs onto the coffee filters. You'll be colouring on 2 layers, and some of the marker will leak through to the bottom coffee filter. (If you use crayons, you'll need to color each filter separately.)



Then take an eye dropper or small measuring spoon and drip water onto the marker until the coffee filter is completely wet. Once the coffee filter is completely wet, stop adding water. If you add a big pool of water the colours will mix together too much, plus it will take forever to dry.



It was a sunny 91F (33C) day outside, so I placed my baking sheets outside in the sun to dry – they were completely dry in half an hour! If you're drying them indoors, it will take several hours, or even overnight, depending on how much water you added.

Once they are dry and you pull apart the two coffee filters, you'll end up with two very similar looking layers.



Fold each one back and forth, accordion style, in about 1/2" folds. (Just make sure the coffee filters are completely dry first or you'll end up with messy fingers!)



Keep folding until the end, so you have two strips that look like this:



Put the two folded strips on top of each other.



Twist a pipe cleaner around the middle so that the two ends point upwards in a big letter “V”. Trim the ends to make them even if you need to.



Next, pinch the end of each pipe cleaner and curl it outwards to make a small spiral.



Finally, pull apart the folds in the coffee filter to open them up and shape your butterfly.





My little tip:

The less white space you leave on the coffee filters, the brighter your butterflies will be. I recommend colouring more of the coffee filter with marker than what I showed in the tutorial photo above.

Just make sure you leave at least a little bit of white space between the colours (about 1/4"). My 6 year old daughter covered her entire coffee filter with dark marker with zero white space and made a butterfly that was almost all navy and black... still pretty, but not quite what we were going for!

My second batch of butterflies where I covered way more of the coffee filter with marker ended up looking so pretty!



These coffee filter butterflies are so easy to make and they look so beautiful! This is such a great summer craft idea for kids and such a fun low mess activity!

<https://onelittleproject.com/coffee-filter-butterflies/>