



WOW!
John Q. Benham of Avoca, Indiana, has the world's largest private book collection, with more than 1.5 million titles.

Make brightly colored bookends from bricks

What you'll need

- Bricks, left over from home projects or purchased from a home improvement store (look for inexpensive bricks or concrete blocks)
- Cardboard, such as from a shipping box, to protect your work surface
- Optional: primer (like gesso) to create brighter colors
- Paintbrush
- Chalkboard paint
- Chalk
- Optional: felt, scissors, and white glue (to make a soft bottom)

Instructions

1. Cover your work surface with cardboard. If you'd like, paint the bricks with primer—except for the small side that will become the bottom. As a shortcut, you can paint only the sides that will show. Allow the primer to dry completely.
2. Paint the bricks on the top and long sides with chalkboard paint. Let dry.
3. Use chalk to draw or write whatever you'd like on the bricks—buildings, flowers, notes, or reminders.
4. Optional: To keep the bricks from scratching surfaces, add a protective layer to the bottom. Place the brick on a piece of felt and trace around the bottom. Cut out the shape and glue it to the bottom of the brick.



ECO TIP
OF THE WEEK

HOST A USED BOOK SALE FOR CHARITY

You may have books in your home that you no longer need. One way to make room on your bookshelves—while keeping your books out of a landfill—is to host your own used book sale and donate what you raise to a cause you care about. First, decide on a charity to donate to. With an adult's help, set a date and time for the sale. Then make signs to post around your neighborhood. On the day of the sale, organize books on a table or in boxes by genre, such as "middle grade mysteries" or "graphic novels." Post a sign that lists prices. Afterward, bring any books that don't get sold to a community donation center that accepts them.



Give old books
a new home.