

FREE PRINTABLE GUIDE

Pipe Cleaner Lily

Easy No-Glue Tutorial — 7 Elegant Variations



TIME

8–10 min

PIPE CLEANERS

10 total

SKILL LEVEL

Intermediate

VARIATIONS

7

myflowerdecor.com | by Janet

What You Need

Materials per Lily

- 6 colored pipe cleaners (petals) — cut into 10 cm pieces each
- 1 yellow or white pipe cleaner — for the center stamens
- 2 green pipe cleaners — for the double stem
- 1 green pipe cleaner — for leaves
- *Optional:* 1 contrasting pipe cleaner for petal edge detail

Total cost: under \$1 · Time: 8–10 minutes · Age: 7+

Step-by-Step Tutorial

- 1 Make the petals.** Cut your colored pipe cleaner into 6 equal ~10 cm pieces. Fold each in half into a narrow pointed oval, pinch the ends together and twist once. Repeat for all 6 — keep them elongated and pointed, not round.
- 2 Make the stamens.** Fold the yellow pipe cleaner in thirds, then in half again for six short upright prongs. Twist the base tightly 3 times.
- 3 Attach petals to stamens.** Wrap each petal's twisted tail around the stamen base, spacing evenly. Twist all 6 tails together firmly — 4 full rotations.
- 4 Open and shape.** Spread the 6 petals outward and slightly backward — this backward curl is what makes it read as a lily, not a daisy. Curl each tip gently against your fingertip.
- 5 Make the double stem.** Twist two green pipe cleaners together end-to-end, attach to the flower base with 3 firm wraps.
- 6 Add leaves.** Fold a green pipe cleaner into a long, narrow pointed oval. Attach one leaf halfway down the stem, one two-thirds down, on opposite sides.

The detail that matters most: Six petals exactly, and always curled backward. This single combination is what makes it unmistakably a lily.

7 Pipe Cleaner Lily Variations

1. Classic White Lily

White petals, yellow stamens, green stem. The most elegant and versatile — works in any room, any occasion.

Best for: home decor, weddings, sympathy gifts

2. Tiger Lily

Orange petals with dark brown/black stamens. Add tiny twisted black dots near each petal base to mimic tiger lily spots.

Best for: autumn arrangements, bold decor, mixed bouquets

3. Pink Stargazer Lily

Deep pink petals with a thin white edge wrapped along each petal, dark stamens. Striking and realistic.

Best for: Mother's Day, birthdays, flower crowns

4. Purple Calla Lily

Different technique — one full-length petal rolled into a cone/funnel shape, single yellow stamen inserted in the center.

Best for: elegant minimalist decor, advanced crafters

5. Lily of the Valley

Miniature: 4 cm petals, only 4 per flower, 4-6 tiny flowers along one long stem for a cascading spray.

Best for: wedding bouquets, crowns, delicate arrangements

6. Red Christmas Lily

Deep red petals, gold stamens. Combine with white lilies and green leaves for a classic holiday look.

Best for: Christmas table decor, holiday wreaths

7. Two-Tone Ombré Lily

Alternate 3 pale + 3 deep petals of the same color for a depth effect — no extra materials needed.

Best for: display pieces, statement bouquets

How to Use Your Lily in Arrangements

In a Bouquet

Place 1-2 lilies at the center back as the tallest focal point, build shorter flowers around them.

In a Flower Crown

Attach at the 12 o'clock position as centerpiece, surround with smaller flowers.

In a Wall Hanging

One large lily at the center as the statement piece, surrounded by daisies and lavender.

As a Standalone Stem

A single lily in a slim bud vase — one of the most elegant displays possible.

Pro Tips for a Florist-Made Look

- ★ Six petals exactly — not five, not seven. This is what makes it unmistakably a lily.
- ★ Backward curl is everything — without it, your lily looks like a daisy.
- ★ Make stamens visible — push them up through the petals if they get buried.
- ★ Use long, narrow leaves only — short round leaves look wrong on a lily.
- ★ Vary stem height — a lily should always be the tallest stem in an arrangement.

FAQ

How is a lily different from a daisy?

Daisy petals are short, round and face forward. Lily petals are long, pointed, and curl backward, with visible stamens above the petals.

How many pipe cleaners per lily?

10 total: 6 for petals, 1 for stamens, 2 green for stem, 1 green for leaves. One pack of 50 makes about 4-5 lilies.

What colors look most realistic?

White, orange, pink and red. For a realistic tiger lily, orange petals with small black twisted dots work best.

How do I keep petals curved?

Curl each petal tip around a pencil before attaching — pre-curved petals hold their shape far better.

Is this suitable for beginners?

Rated intermediate — more complex than a daisy but simpler than a rose. Start with an easier flower first if you're new to pipe cleaner crafts.

My Lily Checklist

- ☐ I made 6 pointed petals
- ☐ I made the stamen bundle
- ☐ I attached petals and curled them backward
- ☐ I added the double stem and leaves
- ☐

My lily is ready to display!

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