

Tips for Using Glass Jars for Herb Storage



BY ERIN LAFAIVE

I find used glass jars at:

- garage sales
- thrift stores
- estate sales
- friends and family
- Discount aisles at outlet stores
- Canning aisles at grocery stores



I prefer using glass jars for herb storage because:

- can be cleaned easily (plastic tends to hold the scent from previous food stored in it)
- it doesn't off-gas like plastic does
- easier to recycle
- easier to find all sizes especially during canning season (late summer)
- glass keeps out oxygen and scents (over time plastic can absorb other scents from the home)



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Other places to find jars:

Sometimes bars and restaurants will give away the used up their large jars that held pickles and other foods. The trick is finding someone who will at least rinse them and hold them until you pick them up.



Cleaning tips:

I use Oxi-clean to help get into the small spaces and dissolve away any hardened pigments from the food that might build up over time.

Large mouth jars are easier to get my hands into so I can clean at the bottom.

Purchase different size and length bottle brushes to get along the shoulder of the jar.



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Additional Tips:

- Wide mouth jars are easier to get larger herbs into and out of.
- Smaller herbs such as lavender flowers and powdered herbs can go into the smaller mouthed jars.
- Darker colored jars can help to keep light out of the jars. UV and sunlight increase the breakdown of herbs.
- After all the work of actions such as: growing and harvesting, or wildcrafting, drying - it's nice to keep the dried herbs as long as possible.
- The advantage of clear jars is I can see more easily into them to monitor for mold and other changes such as color deterioration.

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