

PRESERVE AUTUMN LEAVES

Microwave Method

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Fresh leaves that have not dried out
- Paper towels
- Microwave
- Acrylic spray from a craft store

There are multiple methods to preserve leaves. Thanks to everyday technology, you can preserve autumn leaves using your microwave.

WHAT YOU DO:

1. Arrange the leaves on top of two paper towels. Lay another towel over the leaves to cover them.
2. Microwave the leaves for 30-180 seconds. Be very attentive and careful. Leaves that are cooked in the microwave too long can catch fire. The drier the leaves, the less time they will need. Leaves that curl after removal from the microwave have not been in long enough. Leaves that are scorched have been in there too long. Only dry them for a few seconds at a time.
3. Let the leaves sit for a day or two and then finish by spraying an acrylic sealant on both sides of the leaves.
4. Compare the texture and color of the leaves after using the different preserving methods. Did one method work well for a particular tree species, but another method work better for a different tree species? What do you conclude about what happens to the leaves during the different preserving processes? If you'd like, use a tree identification guide for help identify the leaves of different species.