Wood Craft Skills Training Resource: Making a besom

**You will need:**

- Straight stick 1-2 inches in diameter and approximately the length of desired besom
- Pre-cut branches from the tops of young birch trees (older trees or lower branches tend to be more splayed)

Prepare a bundle of birch branches, bunch together by hand to get a feel of the broom head.

We strongly advise you have read the section on the safe use and storage of tools prior to following these instructions.

**Method:**

1. Using the woodsman's grips tighten the birch bundle and tie sisal around using clove hitch (see how to section for video instructions). Have at least 3 bindings evenly spaced across the besom head.
2. Using the secateurs (or an axe) trim the thick ends of the birch bundle until they are roughly an even length
3. Using the axe and a chopping block, create a point at the end of the hazel rod
4. Push/tap the point of the hazel rod into the centre of the birch bundle, using the wooden board to reinforce tapping with the besom upside down
5. Using the secateurs, trim the thin ends of the birch bundle
6. Sweep using your new besom
4. Insert rod into besom head
5. Trim the bundle
6. Sweep... or fly!

**Suggestion:** Use clove hitches to tie knots when tying the bundle together