

The Wildlife Garden Project

Mini Guide to Making a Bug Hotel

Many insects such as bumblebees are declining in numbers, so it's really important we all try to give them a helping hand. Bug hotels provide a home for loads of creepy crawlies and the good news is they are really easy and fun to make! Just get together some simple recycled items such as bamboo cane, bricks, logs and wood, (or wooden pallets) sticks, leaves, straw and pinecones, then pick a dry, sheltered part of your garden to start building!



To make your bug hotel you need any combination of bamboo cane, tiles, leaves, dead wood, bark, straw, pipes, corrugated cardboard, sticks or even plants. You can pack them into wooden frames (above) or build them up into huge structures with wooden pallets and bricks (below). Ask your parents to help you drill some holes into the logs for tiny creatures to burrow into. The best part of this is that most of these materials can be found for free!

Try to create your bug hotel before the spring, just before bees and other insects emerge. With any luck your bug hotel will be used by many different invertebrates such as ladybirds, spiders, butterflies, daddy long legs, lacewings and woodlice. You may even have a hedgehog use it for hibernation. Maintain your bug hotel by replacing material whenever it needs it and don't paint or varnish the frame. Why not take a photo of your bug hotel and upload it to our website?



Photo by Mpaola Andreoni

To find out even more about mini beasts visit www.wildlifegardenproject.com
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