

BUILD YOUR OWN BUG HOTEL

Bug hotels create a perfect habitat for butterflies, bees, ladybirds and many other small creatures. They are easy to make and fun for all ages.

You will need:

There are lots of things that can be used to make a bug hotel. Ask an adult and see if they will help you and your friends hunt for items together! See if you can collect some of the following:

- Old wooden pallets
- Strips of wood
- Straw
- Moss
- Dry leaves
- Woodchips
- Old terracotta pots
- Old roofing tiles
- Bricks, preferably those with holes through them
- Logs
- Bark
- Leaves
- Pine cones
- Sand
- Soil
- Hollow bamboo canes
- Dead hollow stems cut from shrubs and herbaceous plants
- A sheet of roofing felt
- Planks of wood

Step 1

Choose a suitable site. It needs to be level and the ground firm. Somewhere quiet with some shade is best.

Step 2

You will need a strong, stable framework built from pallets or wood. Ask an adult to help you build the structure. Make sure you create a brick base for the structure to sit on.

Step 3

Now the fun part! Fill in any gaps with the following materials:

- Dead wood and loose bark – this attracts creepy crawlies like beetles, centipedes, spiders and woodlice
- Holes and small tubes (not plastic) made out of bamboo, reeds and drilled logs – solitary bees will like these
- Stones and tiles – put these in larger holes to provide the cool, damp conditions which frogs and toads like
- Dry leaves, sticks or straw – this will attract ladybirds plus other beetles and bugs

Step 4

Create a roof. This will keep it relatively dry. Use tiles or roofing felt. You could even put some rubble and soil to create a 'green roof'. Choose something to plant that likes dry conditions.

You can also sow nectar-rich wildflowers around your bug hotel to provide food for the bugs!

Why not name your hotel and make a sign for it!?



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