



BUG HOTEL

Help the wildlife in your garden by building a bug hotel! They can be as big as you like and can be made of natural materials collected in your garden or in your local countryside.

Bug hotels provide the perfect habitat for a variety of bees and creepy crawlies - even toads and hedgehogs if they're big enough! So, follow our guide below to find out what's in your garden.



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1. Decide where you're going to put your bug hotel

Different locations will encourage different visitors to your hotel. Bees prefer nice sunny spots, ideal if you have a south facing garden. Don't worry if you only have a shaded spot spare, you will still find plenty around.

2. Collect your materials.

We are going to make a smaller bug hotel, perfect if you don't have much space in your garden. You can use old plant pots, recycled bottles or even washed out tins as the main structure of the hotel.



See what else you have around your garden; we picked some moss and found some old bamboo canes in



the garden shed - perfect for solitary bees if you hollow them out!





We also collected some pinecones of different sizes from our local countryside. You can also use bark and dead wood which are great for beetles and woodlice.



3. Put it all together!

Fill your pot/bottle/tin with all the natural materials you have collected! Make sure to not overfill it, you want loads of nooks and crannies for the bugs to creep in to. Put it in your chosen location and enjoy watching all of your new residents move in!





Try this!

- Learn something new and buy an ID book or look online to find out what species are living in your hotel. Keep a diary of how many you see of each and how many different species there are - you can submit wildlife sightings to Living Record.
- Put a bug hotel in different locations around your garden to see how the different conditions influence the species you find.
- See what other recycled materials you can use - if you want to upsize use wooden pallets.
- Share your bug box on social media to encourage others to do the same! #NatureVolunteers

