

How to make a Bug Hotel

Difficulty level: Moderate

What it's for

A well-built bug hotel could provide shelter for bees, woodlice, spiders, frogs and hedgehogs during the winter, helping to ensure the future of your garden's wildlife.

What you will need

Some or all of the following:

- Wooden pallets
- Strips of wood and bark – great for creepy crawlies and spiders
- Bamboo canes or hollow stems made from reeds or drilled logs – great for solitary bees
- Straw, moss, dry leaves or woodchip – great for ladybirds and other bugs
- Corrugated cardboard – great for lacewings
- Old flowerpots (preferably not plastic)
- Older roofing tiles or planks of wood and a sheet of roofing felt
- Bricks (preferably ones with holes in them)

- Wildflower seeds
- Any other materials you can find (preferably natural)

How to build it

1. Find an appropriate space away from any vegetable beds. Some creatures, such as solitary bees, prefer sunny conditions, whereas others prefer cool, damp places.
2. Lay some bricks on the ground to provide the corners, with some spaces to provide doorways for your wildlife. Larger gaps will be more attractive to larger animals such as hedgehogs.
3. Layer your pallets on top of the bricks.
4. Fill the gaps with the other materials (make sure to turn any flowerpots upside down).
5. Use the roofing tiles or planks of wood to create a roof and layer over the roofing felt.
6. Put some wildflower seeds around the outside to provide some food for butterflies, bees and other pollinating insects.

7. Don't forget to name your hotel and maybe put a sign up advertising a 5-star bug resort!

Recycle & Upcycle

Why not think about if you could recycle or upcycle old objects to build into your bug hotel?

Don't forget to share your Bug Hotel on social media using the hashtag [#WildAbbeyfield](https://www.instagram.com/WildAbbeyfield).

