

Earth Day: Make a Bug Hotel



Have a go at making a bug hotel, using recycled household materials. You don't need a garden – you can build in a yard or on a balcony. Ask an adult to help you with the construction.

Raid the garage and potting shed to collect suitable materials for your bug hotel. Gather your materials together and make a rough plan, before you start to construct your hotel. Some ideas for materials:

- Cardboard toilet or kitchen roll tubes
- Offcuts of wood, old pieces of timber, logs
- Moss
- Dried leaves
- Bits of ceramic, broken tiles or old plant pots
- Pine cones
- Roofing felt, scraps of carpet or hessian
- Soil, sand and pebbles
- Hollow canes
- Bricks
- Plant pots
- Foliage, twigs and garden weeds
- Whatever else you can find – preferably natural materials



Step 1: Location

Find a suitable location in your garden, patio or on your balcony to make your bug hotel – make sure it is flat. Depending on the type of materials you find will change how your bug hotel looks – all bug hotels will be unique!

You are aiming to create a natural-looking structure, in which different materials work together to make lots of small spaces where insects can wriggle inside. Build on a flat surface or area and think about what sort of mini beasts you would like to visit the hotel. Some bugs prefer cold, dark spaces and others, light and warm. Use books and the Internet to read about mini beasts and decide where to locate your hotel to have the best chance of attracting your favoured creatures!

Some ideas to get you started:

- Bricks and cardboard toilet roll tubes filled with bamboo - brilliant for bees!
- Logs with different size holes – great for ladybirds and spiders
- Old pieces of timber – may get species of fungi growing here
- Leaves in buckets and under old roof tiles - ideal for frogs, toads and even hedgehogs if your space is big enough
- Fill the gaps with foliage and greenery from your garden waste – great for all types of bugs!

Step 2: Build a foundation

Create a flat, sturdy base for your bug hotel. Planks or larger pieces of wood are a good place to start, or build a foundation out of piled up sticks. Ask an adult to help you built your bug hotel, stacking materials up and layering them to create different hidey-holes. Keep building upwards, layering materials and creating different types of nooks and crannies. Remember, everyone's bug hotel will be unique, depending on what materials are used.

Step 3: Fill in the gaps

Fill the gaps with your smaller materials, such as, dried leaves, moss, pebbles, cardboard tubes or sticks. You are trying to create little holes and tunnels that the creatures can crawl into. Look at pictures on the Internet for inspiration!

Step 4: Finish it off with a welcome sign

Add a roof to your bug hotel with something that will keep the bug homes reasonably dry, for example roof tiles, pieces of wood or even leafy branches. Why not give your hotel a name and make a sign to attach to the outside to welcome bugs in?

Share your bug hotels on social media and remember to tag @TattonPark - that we can see what you have made. Don't forget to tell us the name of your bug hotel!

