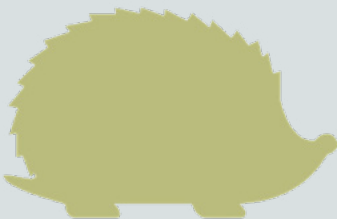




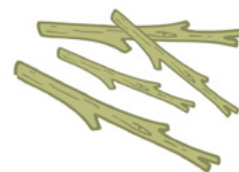
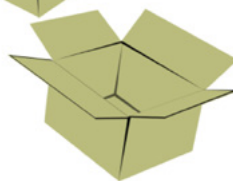
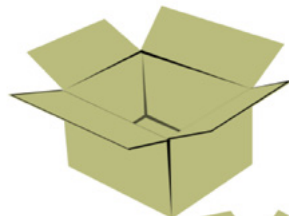
Percy the Park Keeper shows you how to build a cosy hedgehog home and encourage your prickly pals to find a safe space in your garden!



The Secret Path In the Gardens

You will need:

- Cardboard boxes (different sizes)
- Scissors
- Dried leaves, hay, straw or moss
- Twigs, sticks or branches

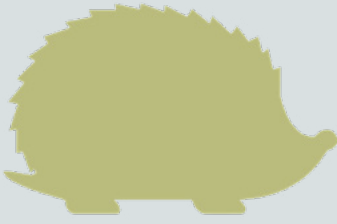


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DID YOU KNOW?

They are called hedgehogs for a reason...

The 'hedge' part of their name comes from where they build their nests in hedges, bushes and shrubs. The 'hog' part comes from the small snorting/grunting sound they make which is similar to a pig/warthog.



Instructions:

1. Find a nice spot in your garden or backyard, in a shady area out of the wind.
2. Turn the large box upside down and ask an adult to help cut an entry hole in one side. Make your home extra secure by adding an entrance tunnel using your second (smaller box). Cut 2 holes in the smaller box, one for a main entrance and one to line up with the entrance of the larger box, attach the two boxes together. You can also cut out some air vents in the sides, so your hedgehog friend has some natural airflow while they are sleeping.
3. Make the floor of your hedgehog house nice and cosy using dry leaves, shredded paper or straw. **TOP TIP:** hedgehogs like smaller leaves such as birch, oak, hawthorn or hazel.
4. Hedgehogs like nicely decorated houses too! Why not cover the outside of the boxes with twigs, moss and dry leaves? You could even use a layer of soil to make it sturdy against the weather. Make sure not to cover the air vents or the entrance.
5. Your hedgehog house is now complete!

Top Tips for hedgehog hospitality:

Once you have built a home, you need to try to encourage the hedgehogs to use it. Use the checklist below to ensure your outdoor space is ready for your new guests!

- Leave out clean water in a small dish, close to the hedgehog house
- Leave out cat or dog food as a tasty supper
- If you have a pond, make a small ramp up to it so the hedgehogs can take a swim!
- Do not use slug or snail pellets in your garden
- Make sure there is a gap in the bottom of your hedge, fence or gate that the hedgehogs can fit through

Please remember to check piles of twigs, grass, wood etc. before disturbing or destroying. These environments are used by hedgehogs for hibernation and nesting.