



## BUG HOTELS



### Overview

Building a bug hotel can help house lots of insects all year round. Using items you can find around the home and garden you can easily build something in your garden.

Young children will enjoy watching the different insects using the hotel which could include ladybirds, slugs, spiders and woodlice.

If you leave bigger spaces within your hotel you may also attract hedgehogs or toads.

### *You can use any of the following items:*

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

### *How to make your bug hotel*

The best bug hotels have lots of small spaces in different shapes and sizes and made from different materials. Ideally some should be nice and dry inside, and others a bit dampish. Bug hotels are generally made from reclaimed materials, or natural objects, which reduces cost, helps them blend in with their surroundings and is probably more attractive to the mini-beast guests.

Start with filling the lower part of the bug hotel with the larger objects like pipes, pot and roofing tiles.

As you continue to fill up the layers of the bug hotel add pinecones, bamboo canes, straw, bark and logs or wood with drilled holes.

Keep going until you are happy that the bug hotel is full and that insects will want to stay there.

An adult may need to help with the highest parts and don't forget to put a roof on top keep the hotel dry and waterproof.