

HOW TO BUILD A BUG HOTEL

A bug hotel can end up being a home to many different types of animals – from hedgehogs and small mammals to frogs and creepy crawlies. It is the perfect way to use up garden waste and you can make your bug hotel as small or large as you want!

MATERIALS

Gather supplies, you can use so many different objects to make a bug hotel. Here's a list of some:

- Logs, twigs, sticks
- Wooden pallets
- Leaves, Moss
- Terracotta pots (can be broken)
- Bricks (preferably with holes in)
- Roofing felt
- Pine cones
- Sand, Soil, Straw
- Cardboard



Any
natural objects
or materials
will do!

SITE

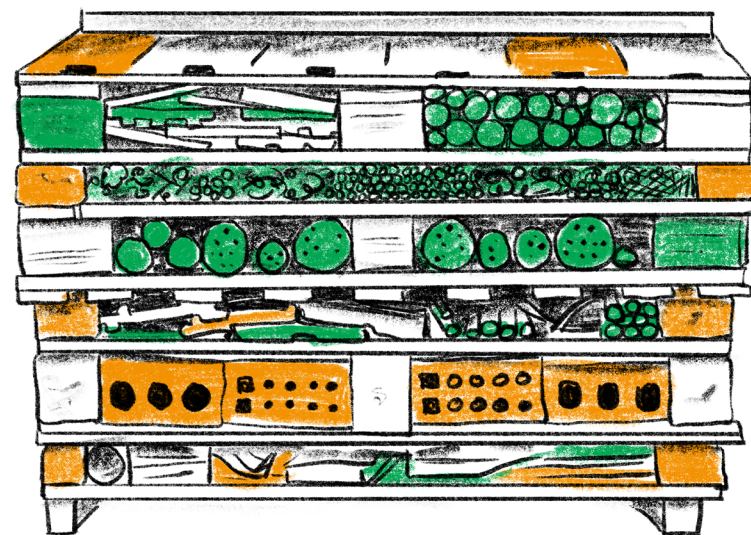
Find an area to build your bug hotel, it should be built on a solid flat floor. You can make it in a damp, cold area of your garden or the sunniest, each will attract a different type of bug and mammal.

BUILDING

If you are looking to attract small mammals and hedgehogs then we would suggest using bricks to create a stable structure base making it tall enough for them to crawl into.

Make sure its dark though so they can hibernate there through the winter. A pallet layered with roof tiles or wood can create a roof.

To attract other animals such as creepy crawlies, you can alternate stacking bricks and wood or just stack pallets on top of each other and again using roof tiles or wood you can create a lid for it to keep it dry.



NB If you have a fruit or vegetable patch then keep your bug house as far away as possible, you don't want all your crops eaten!

FILLING

For the hedgehog and mammal homes then fill the space with straw, pine cones, dried leaves; materials that are cosy and can keep the home damp but warm.

For the creepy crawly hotel we suggest filling all the holes with anything you have to hand. Toilet rolls filled with dried leaves or broken pots and moss or logs and sticks can all be pushed into the holes of the pallets and create lovely bedrooms for bugs and insects to thrive.

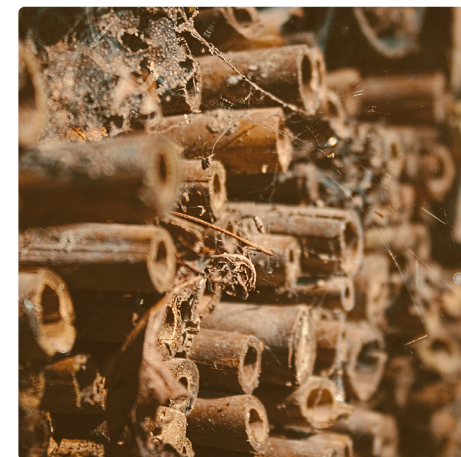
FINISH



After adding the roof you can stop there or you can do a little bit more for your lovely bug hotel. Below are some just some ideas:

You can plant wild flowers and such around it to attract bees and butterflies.

Name your hotel and create a sign for all to see; this bit is especially fun for the kids, get them painting the sign and having a naming ceremony.

Be creative, you don't have to follow the rules, bugs love damp spaces with gaps and holes to live and build around. You can use anything natural to fill the space up use your imagination and have fun.



-  @EtonCollegeMuseums
-  @EtonCollegeMuseums
-  @EtonCollMuseums
-  Collections@etoncollege.org.uk