



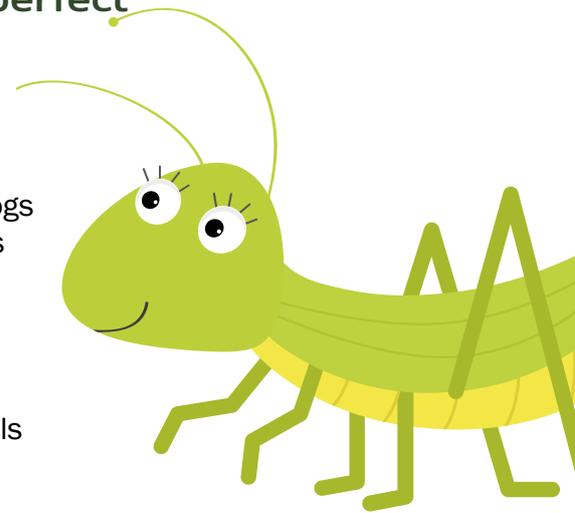
# How to build a bug hotel

Did you know that the average garden has more than 2000 different species of insect living in it? Many of these insects do important jobs like pollinating flowers and getting rid of pests. You can play a big part in helping them do even more good things by building a bug hotel to provide a perfect home for them.

## You will need

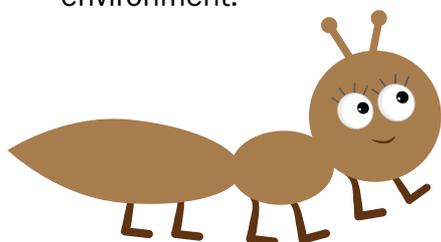
- + 3 or 4 wooden pallets or a wooden crate/box with shelves fitted
- + A mixture of the following
  - bricks
  - old plastic bottles (bottoms cut off)
  - bamboo canes
  - straw
  - leaves

- cardboard
- stones/pebbles
- twigs/loose bark/small logs
- old plant pots or roof tiles
- pine cones
- moss
- newspaper
- empty toilet/kitchen rolls
- any other natural materials you can find



## What to do

- 1 Put your pallet/crate in a warm, flat spot that is sheltered from the wind and rain.
- 2 Fill the gaps in the pallet with a mix of your natural materials. Once all the gaps are filled, place the next pallet on top and fill these gaps too. Repeat for all your pallets.
- 3 Fill up the spaces between shelves if you're using a crate with fitted shelves – this will make lots of cosy spaces for the bugs to hide.
- 4 Fill the plastic bottles with rolled-up cardboard or bamboo canes and put these in the bug hotel too. If you're using small logs, drill holes in them for the insects to burrow into.
- 5 Create a name and a sign for your hotel. Be proud of what you're doing for the environment.



Even if you're short of space in your garden you can still make great homes for do-gooding insects by building either a mini bug hotel or a log pile lodge. Plenty of wildlife makes their home in dead wood and recycled and natural materials.

## Mini bug hotel

### You will need

- + **A mixture of the following**
  - a recycled/reused container (e.g. plastic bottle with end cut off)
  - plant pot
  - disposable coffee cup
- + **Bamboo canes**
- + **Newspaper**
- + **Corrugated cardboard**
- + **Scissors**
- + **Twigs, dry leaves, straw, pine cones etc.**
- + **Any other natural materials you can find**

### What to do

- 1 Make newspaper rolls by cutting newspaper lengthways and rolling up. Make sure the tube has a hollow middle. You can also roll up corrugated cardboard.
- 2 Cut the newspaper or cardboard to the length of your chosen container.
- 3 Place the natural materials tightly into the container so that they won't fall out. Make sure the hollow ends of bamboo canes are facing outwards and protected from the rain.
- 4 Place your bug hotel in a warm, quiet spot, no higher than 1m above the ground and with the open end slightly lower so that rain runs out. Good places are trees and bushes.

## Log pile lodge

### You will need

- + **Logs, twigs, branches and/or**
- + **Leaves and/or**
- + **Cuttings from bushes**

### What to do

- 1 Choose a shady corner of your garden. Make a small pile of logs, branches, and leaves of different sizes there.
- 2 Watch as the small pile you've created attracts big numbers of bugs to your garden.

