

BUILDING A BUG HOTEL

Invertebrates need a home too! Somewhere to shelter on a cold night, or to hide from the searing heat of the day. Construction of a bug hotel provides such a site, attracting many different minibeasts to your greenspace! If you're really lucky, mammals and reptiles may also visit!



MATERIALS

- Wooden pallets
- Bricks or stones
- Filling material - dead wood and sticks, dry leaves, vegetation
- Dry logs
- Roof tiles, flat stones or planks of wood

Note: while these are the suggested materials, you can use any natural materials you have handy!

STAGE 1: FOUNDATIONS

Place a wooden pallet on level ground and place bricks on top of it, in a H-shape.



STAGE 2: BUILDING UP

Then place your next pallet on top, followed by yet more bricks – This process can be continued until your bug hotel reaches the desired height (no more than one metre)



STAGE 3: FILLING THE GAPS

Your bug hotel should not have lots of gaps and holes in it, and by filling these with a variety of different natural materials, you can provide lots of habitats for minibeasts.

- Placing bits of dead wood and bark into the gaps attracts a range of incredible creepy crawlies, including woodlice, centipedes and beetles.
- Introducing dry leaves into your bug hotel mimics the natural habitat of many of these invertebrates and creates an ideal home for many beetles and spiders.
- By adding bamboo and drilling holes into logs, you provide cavities for solitary bee species to hide in.





STAGE 4: IT'S ALL ABOUT AESTHETICS

Fill any remaining gaps with sticks, vegetation and pebbles.

STAGE 5: ADDING A ROOF

Many of your minibeast friends will hide in the hotel to shelter from the rain, so it's best to add a waterproof roof to stop rain seeping in! You can do this by adding roof tiles, planks of wood or flat stones to the top of the structure



You're done!

