

How to build a Wildlife Hotel

You will need any of the following:

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| Planks of wood | Bark |
| Old terracotta pots | Bamboo |
| Roofing tiles | Straw |
| Bricks <small>(don't worry about the holes; the more the better)</small> | Dry leaves |
| Logs | |

...and anything else you can find in the shed at home!



INSTRUCTIONS

1. Find a suitable area to begin the build

Depending where you build the hotel, different creatures will appear.

2. Build a sturdy base

Items such as bricks keep the hotel secure on the ground. If you leave a larger gap, hedgehogs may move in!

3. Start big

Use the larger items to build the framework of the hotel. Keep the structure no more than a metre high.

4. Fill in the gaps

The aim is to provide hidey holes for the critters that may stop by. Different designs attract different animals. Dead wood and bark attract beetles and woodlice; larger holes with stones attract amphibians; dry areas attract ladybirds; and any small holes or natural tubes on the edges may attract solitary bees.

5. Don't forget the roof!

Add more wood, roof tiles or roofing felt to the top to protect the hotel below. Make sure it is nice and stable and isn't going to topple off on a windy day. Safety first!

6. Advertise the hotel.

Help the wildlife in your garden find their new getaway by adding flowers around the outside – the perfect advertisement for those pollinating insects to become your first guests.

7. Finally, be a good host

Give them time to settle in. It's unlikely anyone will move in straight away, but after a few days, take a peak and see which minibeasts have taken residence. There may not be a 'Do Not Disturb' sign on the door, but it's best not to pick the hotel apart to find the creatures. Instead, see if you can see anyone popping in and out. As the seasons change, so too will the guests, so make sure to keep an eye all year round!

