

explorium

Build a Bug Hotel

It can be hard for mini beasts and bugs to find safe places to live, especially in built-up areas. You might think bugs are creepy, disgusting things, but they're actually very important! Insects are a key part of the food chain, and can be vital in helping the flowers we love and the fruits and veggies we eat grow!

So why not use some bits and pieces from your garden to build them a state-of-the-art, 5-star bug hotel?!

They're very simple and fun to make, and you can use anything you can find around you.

Start off with a frame. You can ask your parents to help you build one of these if they have some spare timber lying around. Otherwise you could use something like an old flower pot or lunchbox!

Once you have your frame, fill it up with things you think the insects might like to live or hide inside. Here are some suggestions of materials you could use, but you can use whatever you can find! Try to use as many natural materials as possible, things you'd find in your garden or maybe on your local walk.

- ▶ Leaves (dried or fresh)
- ▶ Sticks or twigs
- ▶ Stones
- ▶ Bamboo sticks
- ▶ Old logs
- ▶ Broken bricks or tiles
- ▶ Straw
- ▶ Folded up bits of cardboard
- ▶ Soil or sand
- ▶ Pinecones or conkers if you collected some last year
- ▶ Bits of tree bark
- ▶ Moss
- ▶ Wood chips



Use your imagination to make your bug hotel whatever you want it to be! You'll have lots of residents before long - insects love dark places, so the more tightly packed your hotel the better.

Here are some pictures to give you a bit of inspiration.