



Make a bug hotel

3 years and up

Insects need our help!

They may be small, but the jobs that invertebrates (mini beasts, including insects) do for nature have a BIG impact on life on earth. As well as being amazing pollinators and clean up crews, they are the main source of food for lots of other animals like birds, bats and reptiles.

But the number of insects in the UK is going down dramatically. What's more, a massive 41% of species are threatened with extinction.

In natural habitats there are endless nooks and crannies where invertebrates (mini beasts), can shelter. Crevices in bark, holes in dead wood, piles of fallen leaves, gaps between rocks, hollow plant stems, – all these provide lots of different homes that small creatures need to nest or to escape from predators or bad weather.

Whether you have a garden or a balcony you can help these amazing creatures by making them a bug hotel. By tackling the nature crisis close to home, you will help protect the planet for the future.



You will need: anything you can make into an open-ended cylinder about 15cm long, such as a large plastic bottle cut into two cylinders, a cardboard tube, an old cereal box rolled into a cylinder or a plant pot, sticks, pinecones, bark, bamboo, tightly rolled tubes made of newspaper, some string.

Make your cylinder and fill it with whatever material you have so that it is filled but has holes and hiding places for the bugs which will visit.

Keep your guests safe and warm by hanging your hotel in a sheltered spot; under a bush, in a shed or underneath another covered outdoor area, making sure it is no more than a metre off the ground.



Bringing nature nearer