

Bug hotel

Creating a bug hotel provides wonderful opportunities to get up close to a range of bugs and watch how they move and interact with their environment.

Resources

Materials you could use:

- Pallets, logs or wooden crates to create the overall structure
- Dead wood
- Bricks
- Hollow bamboo canes
- Wooden blocks with holes drilled into them
- Drainpipe
- Roof tiles
- Logs
- Straw
- Hay
- Dry leaves
- Bark
- Plants
- Herbs.



Activity Outline

Nursery gardens could be home to a wide range of living creatures. By providing the right habitats we can greatly increase the number of beneficial insects in the garden. This activity is also a great way to recycle materials that you might otherwise have thrown away.

1. Find a suitable space for your habitat
 - A cool, damp place in semi shade, by a hedge or under a tree is ideal
 - Placing it near to other natural features will make it easier for small creatures to find
 - Choose a level surface that will provide a firm base.
2. Stack your pallets, crates or logs on top or beside each other and ensure they are secure
3. Create your hotel sections however you like using the materials you have found by placing them inside the spaces created.

Children will love spending time exploring the bug hotel looking for insects. Encourage them to take photographs as it changes over time. If the children do find an insect that they want to show their friends, ensure they put it back in the bug hotel afterwards.

If a bug hotel is too big a project, or you would like to introduce the idea slowly, then start with a mini bug home that you can attach to your fence. Something as simple as a section of drainpipe with hollow bamboo canes placed inside can be effective.