Toad Abode

Building a toad abode is an easy way you can take action for wildlife by creating habitat in your own backyard, patio, or balcony. All you need is a clay pot and a little space to create a shelter for toads, frogs and other critters.

Toads, frogs, and other amphibians can breathe through their skin and need to stay moist to survive. Check out this VIDEO on how the Titicaca Water Frog takes this to an extreme!

In California, where we may not get rain for the majority of the year, it is great to create a cool, damp place for amphibians and other animals to take shelter in.

House Styles

There are a couple different styles to choose from that depend on what you would like your toad abode to look like and what you might have on hand.

- **Quick and Easy**: Bury your pot sideways, half way in the soil so the mouth creates a cave-like entrance.
- **Raised Flat**: Flip your pot upside down and raise it up on some rocks.
- **Fixer Upper**: Use a pot with a chip and flip it upside down. Place it directly on the ground.

Jazz It Up a Bit

Toads aren’t picky about the extra flare, but if you would like to spruce it up a bit, try...

- **Pile rocks and sticks** around the abode to camouflage it into the surroundings.
- **Use turf** to cover the roof and sides of the abode to make a hobbit-esque home.
- **Paint the outside of your house with non-toxic paint**. Keep in mind, your new resident’s skin may be very porous which means chemicals and toxins are easily absorbed.
- **Use oven bake clay** to transform your house into a squat cottage or crazy art piece.

Where

Pick a spot that is shady and moist to set up your abode. Bare soil or moss is the ideal flooring for a toad’s dream home. For extra comfort, add a shallow water source like a bird bath or planter saucer.

**No backyard?** No problem! As long as you have a little outdoor space with shade, you can create habitat for your wild friends. You can put your abode in a planter or larger pot.

Consider also creating pathways for pollinators. Find out more at oaklandzoo.org/pollinators.