

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.