

How-to build a bee hotel



Bees are essential to our ecosystem, they pollinate our plants and flowers, and in the past few decades they have declined significantly due to habitat loss, agricultural intensification and climate change. You can help our bees by making your own bee hotel in your garden, as a nice safe space for pollinators to live.



You will need:

- Craft knife and cutting mat
 - Empty clean plastic bottle, flowerpot, or pipe.
 - Short bamboo canes, hollow plant stems or strips of rolled up newspaper with a variety of hole diameters between 2-10mm.
 - Twigs and grasses
 - String or twine
 - Modelling clay or wax
 - Sandpaper
 - Garden clippers or secateurs
1. Using a craft knife or similar, cut the ends off of a plastic bottle, creating a cylinder. You can also use a ceramic flower pot, or a length of water pipe, but sand the edges of the pipe to make sure they are smooth.
 2. Use lengths of at least 10 cm, 15 cm is ideal, as solitary bees like to go deep inside to lay their eggs.

3. Make the canes or whatever you are using at least 3cm shorter than the cylinder or pipe to make sure they stay dry. You can use a garden clipper or secateur to trim them.
4. If using canes, use sandpaper to smooth the ends as bees will avoid sharp edges, as they can damage their wings!
5. Use modelling clay or wax to completely block one end of the canes, then use string or twine to secure the rolls together.
6. Thread a length of string through two holes made in the cylinder so you can hang up the finished hotel, then fill the cylinder with the tied canes, stems or rolled up paper rolls. Fill any gaps with more canes, stems or twigs until it is tightly packed.
7. Hang your hotel on a fence or building, making sure it is secure and won't blow around in the wind!



As this is a temporary design, the bee eggs need protection during autumn and winter so you'll need to move the hotel inside a shed or similar to keep it dry. Put it outside again in Spring. Once the new bees have emerged you can replace the stems with fresh materials and start again!

If you decide to build our bee hotel, let us know what visitors you have and share some photos on our socials @SongBirdSBS or send a photo to dawn-chorus@songbirdsurvival.org.uk



Learn more about Gardens for Birds and what you can do to help all birds and wildlife at: www.songbirdsos.org/gardens-for-birds

