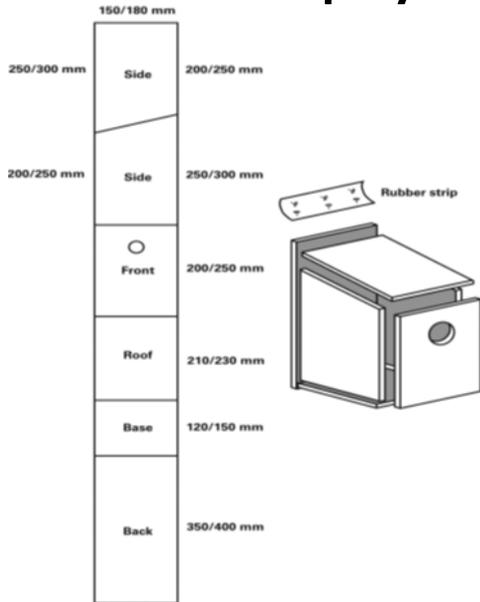


Build Your Own Nest Box and Bug Hotel

It's National Nest Box week from 14th –21st February. Make a home for our feathered friends and the bug in your garden.

Step by Step guide to making a Bird Box



What you will need:

A plank of wood 15cm x 1.4m long x 1.5-1.8cm thick and not pressure treated

Pencil and tape measure

Saw

Galvanised nails

Strip of roofing felt

Drill



1. Natural nest holes don't come in standard sizes, so please use the following sizes as a guide. Use a plank about 150 mm wide and 15 mm thick. Use the diagram to help you.
2. The inside of the box must be at least 100 mm square and the bottom of the entrance hole must be at least 125 mm from the floor. If it is less, young birds might be scooped out by a cat.
3. Use galvanised nails or screws. The inside front surface should be rough – this will help the young birds to clamber up. A drainage hole in the base will also help to stop the box getting damp inside.
4. Hinge the lid with a strip of roofing felt. Do not nail the lid down (because you will need to clean out the box in autumn). Instead, use a catch to keep it closed.
5. The entrance hole size depends on the type of bird you want to attract:
 - 25 mm for coal tits, marsh tits and blue tits
 - 28 mm for great tits and tree sparrows
 - 32 mm for nuthatches and house sparrows
 - A starling box needs to be 25-30% larger with an entrance 45 mm across

PLEASE DO NOT use chemicals like wood preservatives without an adult – they can be dangerous. If you remove the top half of the front panel, the same type of box could attract robins, pied wagtails or wrens to nest. Spotted flycatchers prefer an even shallower, open-fronted box.

Why not make it easier for the birds to make their nest and collect materials like dry grass, twig and you can even use pet hair. The next time you brush your dog, cat or rabbit put this in your parcel and it will make the birds nest really cosy.

Here are just a few of ways you can leave nesting material out for the birds





What you need:



A porcelain mug

Permanent Marker pens (Different colours)

Sticks

Cardboard

Bamboo sticks

Dry grass

Pine Cones

Pieces of slate or bricks

Paper and pencil



How to Make your Mug Bug Hotel:

1. Get a porcelain mug. Make sure it is clean. Don't use your best ones. A plain white one is best.
2. Take your paper and pencil and draw your design for your mug.
3. Now take your permanent marker pens (make sure you don't get them on your clothes, maybe wear something old) and create your design on your mug
4. Whilst your design is drying and you're on your daily walk, collect the items for your bug hotel. Get sticks, pine cones, dry grass, bamboo sticks and cardboard if you have any at home. Make sure your sticks are similar size (get an adult to help if you need to cut them) and place everything you find into your mug. You want it very full so when you tip it upside down nothing falls out.
5. Hang them in your garden and make a note of what bugs use your hotel.

Brick Bug Hotel

If you have some old bricks lying around why not stack them up, leaving gaps to wedge in sticks and grass, that you could collect from your garden or your local park on your daily exercise.

Make sure you place this in a shady area, as bricks can get hot in the sun and the bugs won't like it.



You can use almost anything to make a home for your bugs, they will even be happy with just a pile of logs or sticks.

