

Bee Homes

If you want to attract new pollinators to your garden or local area there are loads of really easy and fun ways to make a bee hotel. You could of course pop to the shop and buy one, but these hotels are often not really that great for bees because they are too short – a nice homemade one would be a bee's top choice home!



Solitary bees like to make their nests in cavities in dead wood – we can copy this habitat and provide more homes for them by getting crafty with some simple materials. Here are a few ideas (pictures and advice) of different 'simple' bee homes that you could make at home.



Important Things to do to Ensure Success:

No matter which style of home you fancy making.....

1. The home needs to be placed (or hung) at least a metre off the ground in a sunny spot
2. The back or one end of the home needs to be sealed off so that the bees only have a front door.
3. Most importantly the tubes/tunnels that you provide should be 10 – 15 cm long and a variety of different diameters to attract a range of different species. NB: The bees will make cosy nest chambers down the tubes using mud, resin and sometimes leaves.
4. Make sure that your bamboo or stems (tubes and tunnels) are all very tightly packed and secure.

Container options:

Washed tin can, 2 ltr plastic juice bottle, old plant pot, an old wooden box, a deep ice cream tub

Tube or hole materials:

Bamboo sticks, hollow plant stems, twigs, rolled up cardboard (all 10 – 15cm long)

Other useful things:

String or wool, scissors, old clay might also be useful to block the end of the tubes.

