



BUILDING AN INSECT HOTEL

Building an insect hotel is a great way to encourage native insects, amphibians and mammals to nest in your garden. Not only does it provide habitat, but it also increases bio-diversity and helps with pest control by attracting predators like ladybugs and spiders.

Certain insects (like solitary bees) need sun and warmth to survive, while others enjoy cooler, wet conditions. Site your hotel in a spot that gets both sun and shade as well as protection from chilly winter winds. Provide food sources like native wildflowers, berry shrubs, nectar-rich annuals and a clean source of water nearby. To build the hotel, start with a structure like heat-treated pallets (as pictured below) or cinder blocks, and scavenge your garden for natural materials to stuff inside for "mini habitats." We recommend looking at examples on Google or Pinterest before you get started. There are a lot of different creative ways to make an insect hotel!

Holes drilled into wood blocks and hollow bamboo poles or plant stems support solitary bee populations. Include different diameters for different species.

Stones, bricks, roof tiles, and PVC tubes make handy houses for amphibians and arachnids. Stones and tiles placed in the frost-free center create a "toad hole" for overwintering amphibians.

Dry leaves, hay, straw, pinecones, and sticks provide habitat for a wide range of invertebrates, including lady beetles.



Nectar-rich plants provide food for honey bees and solitary bees. Surround your hotel with herbs, native wildflowers and berry shrubs.

Rolled cardboard inside a waterproof container (like a soda bottle) is great for lacewing nesting.

Bare dirt and upside-down plant pots lightly stuffed with garden debris are perfect nesting sites for bumble bees.

Chunks of dead wood and bark sustain centipedes, wood lice, beetle larvae and fungi.