

# Building a Bug Hotel

A guide into the benefits of having a Bug Hotel, what you will need and step by step instructions into creating your very own hotel..



## What you will need

- Old wooden pallets
- Bricks
- Straw
- Leaves
- Loose Bark
- Twigs
- Cardboard
- Stones
- Tiles
- Moss
- Old plant pots
- Pinecones
- Soil
- Planks of wood
- Roofing felt (optional)
- Any other natural materials



## The benefits of a Bug Hotel

- Encouraging biodiversity in the garden can help to increase ecosystem productivity and create a natural balance
- Provides a safe habitat for creatures great and small (i.e. butterflies, frogs, bee's, ladybirds, woodlice and even hedgehogs!)
- Offers opportunities to educate children on how ecosystems work, exposing them to first hand gardening experiences
- Encouraging beneficial insects into your garden can reduce the need for harmful pesticides
- Broadens the understanding of nature for all



# How to build your very own Bug Hotel



Bug hotels offer a safe haven for hedgehogs, nesting solitary bees, and hibernating ladybugs and butterflies. They are also a great way to create a microhabitat for mini beasts such as worms, snails, insects, and spiders.

## Step 1



Place your pallet in a sturdy, suitable location. Lay the bricks down on your pallet to create a 'H' shape.

## Step 2



Place your next pallet on top and repeat the process for all the pallets until you have created a tower. This structure can be as small or as big as you want it to be, depending on the size of your garden.

## Step 3



Fill the gaps! Include all of the natural materials you have collected with your pallets to provide crevices, tunnels and cosy beds. Make sure all the spaces are filled with leaves, bark, twigs, stones and straw.

## Step 4



Add a roof - this will keep your hotel relatively dry. You can use old roof tiles or planks of wood covered in felt.

## Step 5



Be as creative as you want - extra materials can be added e.g. old plant pots, planks of wood, tubes and you can even add a welcome sign or name your hotel.

## Step 6



Sit back and watch your hotel attract guests! After dark is when you will see most activity, so pop out with a torch and see who is popping back and forth.