

Building Bug Hotels

Most insects are beneficial to us. They pollinate our flowers and many help to control insects that are pests by preying on them. To help provide a safe shelter for these beneficial insects you can create your very own bug hotel!

Remember insects have different life stages and become dormant in the fall and winter. In the fall carefully empty the contents of your 'bug hotel' into a corner of your yard or under some bushes where any dormant insects or their eggs will be safe. Also, many insects live in the leaves in your yard. Another way to help them is to rake your leaves into a designated space instead of disposing or burning them.

IDEA! Make two: One for the ground and one to hang from a tree. See if you get different insects!



1



Gather Materials

- Large plastic bottle (a 2-liter pop bottle works well, make sure it is clean)
- Scissors or knife to cut the bottle (make sure an adult helps you!)
- Twine or other sturdy string for hanging
- Natural materials
- To provide suitable habitats for the insects, look for materials from your local environment.

These materials could include:

- Dry leaves
- Pine cones
- Bits of bark that have fallen from a tree
- Small stones
- Hollow plant material like dry stalks
- Sticks
- Straw
- Corrugated cardboard

2



Cut the Bottle

Have your adult cut the top and bottom off of the bottle. Then have them cut the bottle in half to form two cylinders.

3



Hang Your Bug Hotel

If you would like to hang your bug hotel, cut a piece of twine or sturdy string and loop it through one of the cylinders. Tie the ends together.

4



Stuff Your Bug Hotel

Layer your natural materials into the bottle. Once your hotel is full find a safe place to hang it or set it on the ground. To keep your insects happy and safe try to find a place in the shade so they don't get too hot. Remember to check on the hotel regularly to make sure it stays dry!