

INSECT HOTEL



An insect hotel is a unique feature to add to your garden / allotment. It will attract a range of insects but also offer a place for amphibians to hunt for food and take shelter.

Materials:

- Wooden pallets
- Straw
- Corrugated cardboard
- Bricks
- Dry leaves
- Wildflower seed
- Hollow canes / sticks
- Slate tiles
- Empty plastic bottles
- Dead wood
- Loose bark
- Soil

Tools:

- Gloves
- Safety boots
- Wood saw

Step 1: Choose a spot in the garden

Choose a spot that won't flood and isn't in direct sunlight throughout the day. Also locate your insect hotel on a level surface. Close to a tree, hedge or pond will make your hotel easier for insects to find!



Step 2: Laying the first pallet

The structure of your insect hotel will be made out of your wooden pallets. Place the first pallet in your chosen spot and get ready to start building your layers!



Froglife is a UK wildlife charity committed to the conservation of amphibians and reptiles - working with people, enhancing lives together for a healthier planet. Find out more about our education projects and activities at www.froglife.org

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Step 3: Construct your insect hotel

Build your hotel up layer by layer - what you choose to include from the materials list is up to you! Here's some ideas:

- Hollow canes (for example bamboo) can be placed inside old flower pots, pipes or in bundles - excellent for solitary bees.
- Straw can be used by a range of invertebrates for sheltering and hibernation.
- Corrugated cardboard is a great spot for lacewings which eat many garden pests - roll up and place inside a waterproof container like an old plastic bottle.
- Bricks with holes can be used at the bottom of your hotel.
- Dead wood is great for woodlice, centipedes and the young of many invertebrates.



- You can also top your hotel with soil and wildflower seed as a finishing touch!



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