

Step 1 - Choosing a suitable area.

The ground has to be level and firm. Depending on where you place your bug hotel will depend on what creature uses it. Some animals or insects like cool, damp areas where as others like solitary bees prefer sunny areas. The bug hotel will be best kept away from vegetable beds. You'll need a strong, sturdy framework that's less than a meter high.

The best thing to use to make a large hotel is wooden pallets as there strong, sturdy and come with ready made gaps. The first thing to do is lay some bricks on the ground as sturdy corners. Ideally leave gaps in between the bricks to allow animals or insects to get inside. Next add 3 to 4 layers of wooden pallets on the top of the bricks. To attract hedgehogs leave larger ends.



Step 2 - Filling in the gaps.

Ideally you want to provide as many different nooks and crannies as possible to encourage as many different insects and animals as possible.

- Loose bark can encourage insects such as beetles, centipedes, spiders and woodlice.
- Solitary bees like small holes, these can be made with things like bamboo and reeds.
- Frogs and toads require larger gaps with stones in this provides them with cool, damp conditions that they like. If you create this in the center of the hotel it provides them with frost protection.
- Ladybirds need gaps with dry leaves and straw in them, ladybirds eat aphids.
- Cardboard in gaps can encourage lacewings which are good for you plants as there larvae eat aphids.

Step 3 - Creating the roof.

Once your hotel is high enough, it will need a roof on it to keep it dry. You can use old roof tiles or even planks of wood, place them on top of your hotel this will help to keep the hotel dry.



WHAT'S IN A BUG HOTEL AND WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS



Insects you might find in a bug hotel are:

- Solitary bees
- Solitary wasps
- Ladybirds
- Lacewings
- Butterflies
- Spiders
- Woodlice

Insects use bug hotels as a safe space to hibernate, lay their eggs, raise their young and for safety from predators. Animals such as hedgehogs, toads, frogs and mice also use bug hotels.

The benefits of bug hotels:

- Animals can hibernate over winter.
- Insects can lay their eggs.
- Animals can raise their young after their born.
- Prey can use the bug hotel for protection from predators.

