



## Activity 5 – Building a bug hotel

Reuse garden materials to build a habitat for bugs and minibeasts in your garden.

### You will need:

- Garden waste – use whatever you have!
- A drill (optional)

### Examples of things you can use:

- Bricks
- Broken tiles or pots
- Sticks, twigs, logs
- Wood, crates
- Dry leaves, woodchip, bark
- Cardboard
- Stones and pebbles



Time required: 1-2 hrs

Suitable for all ages

### Picture of activity



### Safety Tips:

- Be careful when picking up or moving heavy or sharp objects. Get an adult to help!

### Instructions:

1. Gather all of your materials for your bug hotel. Use whatever garden waste you have!
2. Find a suitable spot. Building your hotel in a dark, damp spot will attract bugs such as woodlice and snails and building it in a sunny spot could attract bees.
3. Start building! Use sturdier materials such as wood and bricks to build a solid structure. Have a look at the pictures below for some inspiration.
4. Fill in the gaps in your structure with other items you have. Try to use a range of different materials to attract lots of different bugs to your hotel! Hollow plant stems or bamboo canes are a great addition. You could also drill holes in wood or plant pots to attract solitary bees which like to nest in them.
5. Finish your hotel by adding a roof! Materials such as tiles, or wood are good for this.
6. After you've completed your hotel, check back to see which bugs have come to visit! You can use our minibeast bingo worksheet to help you identify common bugs:  
<https://zone.recycledevon.org/news/minibeast-bingo/>

Watch a video of this activity on our Zone website.  
Go to <http://zone.recycledevon.org>

### ***Useful Tip:***

***If drilling holes, try to add holes of different sizes (2-6mm in diameter) to encourage different species of bees and a range of insects.***

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

**In Britain, there are over 270 species of bees! Around 250 of these species are solitary bees, a bee which tends to live alone and not in colonies.**

### **Some examples of bug hotels to spark your imagination!**



**Share your pictures with us on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram by tagging @RecycleDevon #recycledevon**

Check out this video which gives examples of materials you can make your bug hotel out of, and how to assemble it: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J7HtYFWPqEs>

### **Home Schooling**

This activity can help children in **Year 1** learn how to identify parts of plants and their names, such as leaves, branches, and trunks, along with recognising and naming materials such as stones and wood.

This activity can also introduce children in **Year 2** to habitats and to consider why an animal might want to live in their hotel, such as shelter and hiding from predators.

It can also help children in **Year 4** to consider the impact of humans on environments, and how we can positively influence this by building structures like these that give local animals a habitat.

Older children (**KS2/3**) could use this activity as a springboard to a writing activity (instructional writing) or a science investigation (what will live here?).