

Build a Bug Hotel



Activity Description

A bug hotel is an artificial habitat we can make for bugs to live in our garden or yard. Why are bug hotels beneficial? They increase the biodiversity of your garden and yard by giving a variety of insects a place to naturally visit. Bug hotels also decrease the need for pesticides by attracting beneficial bugs like beetles, ladybugs, bees, butterflies, green lacewings, and, garden spiders to your hotel and garden.

Procedure

1. Start with a structure (one of the boxes) into which you can insert bug hotel materials.
2. Gather all of the insect hotel materials and start layering them into the structure you have selected.
3. You could also use plastic/glass jars, toilet paper/paper towel rolls, or use cardboard pieces as dividers to create more mini compartments.
4. Once all of the compartments are ready, fill the hotel with leaves, twigs, rocks, and other natural materials

Materials

- Natural materials: twigs, leaves, flowers, etc.
- Corrugated cardboard (cardboard with grooves and ridges)
- Toilet paper or paper towel tubes
- Rolled up paper
- Pieces of bark
- Hollowed out branches, reeds, or logs
- Empty box (shoe box or cereal box sized)
- Plastic or glass jar or container (yogurt or applesauce cup)

Preparation and Safety

Be cautious about inspecting the hotel when completed if allergic to any insects.

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Procedure (continued)

5. Place your hotel in a dry place, preferably in a position where it will catch the morning sun. A location near vegetation, wood piles or water will attract more bugs and insects.
6. Visit your insect hotel every day to investigate and see what new tenants you have!

Extensions or Adaptations

- Imagine that you are a bug in search of a place to live. What kind of bug would you choose to be? What would you look like? Would you like to live in the bug hotel you just created? Write or draw a story about your life as a bug.
- Gather data on what types of bugs you find at your hotel for a period of time and graph your results. You could check your hotel everyday, once a week, or twice a month. Do you think you will find more bugs in the morning, the middle of the day, or in the evening? Do you think the time of year (Spring, Summer, Autumn, Winter) will affect how many bugs living in your hotel? Why or why not?