

Air Bee & Bee

An easy way of attracting friendly bugs is to give them somewhere nice to stay! Many useful insects need a place to sleep that's dry and snug. You can help them by making an insect hotel. Different insects like different kinds of holes to sleep in.

You Will Need

An old but sturdy box made of wood, cardboard, or plastic

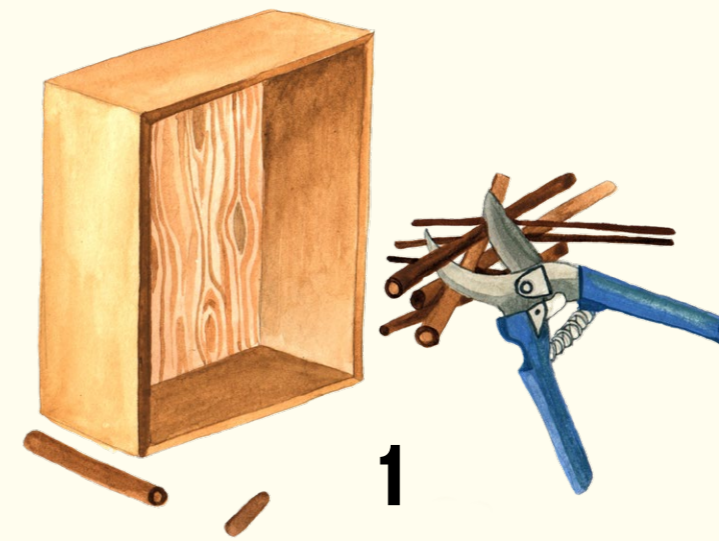
Short bundles of sticks, reeds, or thin bamboo

Thin wire

Pruning shears

Clay

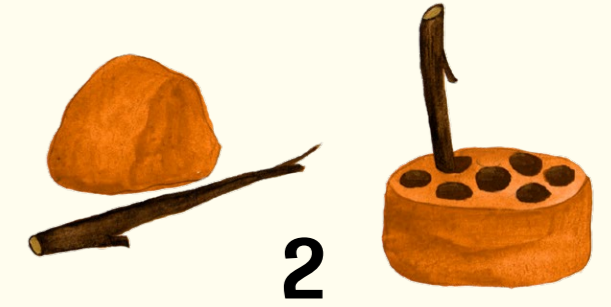
Some insects like the nooks between sticks, some like the holes in reeds, and some like holes in mud or clay. Try to give the insects lots of different types of rooms to stay in!



Put your box on its side. Measure the sticks and reeds so that they poke out of the box a little. Cut your sticks to size with pruning shears.



Put your clay shape in a corner of the box with the holes facing outward.



Mold the clay into a circle. Get a small stick and carefully poke holes into one side of the clay. Each hole should be at least five centimeters deep.



Bundle up your sticks and reeds, making sure to group together the same material, and then tie the sticks together firmly. Arrange the bundles of sticks in the box.

5 Carefully place your insect hotel outside, at least one meter off the ground. Put it in a sheltered place out of the rain, like on a shelf or table.

It will take a little while for insects to discover your hotel and check in, but one day you will notice that some of the holes have visitors. Some holes may even get completely covered over with insect guests, as they will tell their friends about the great new hotel they have found!

