

# BUILD AN INSECT HOTEL

*Our homes and backyards are shared with lots of different insects that support our environment in different ways, but their survival is threatened by the removal of their habitat, the introduction of pesticides and other invasive insects.*

*Building an insect hotel is a great way of providing shelter and protection to our insect buddies.*

## Why an insect hotel?

Insects are vital for ecosystem functions such as pollination, predation of pests like mosquitoes, and serving as food for native wildlife.

## Foundations

Making an insect hotel doesn't have to be complicated – you can even recycle bits and pieces from around your house. Most insect hotels start with a house shape made of wood but can be made in any shape or size. The main requirements are:

- that it's waterproof, so that your insect visitors don't get flushed out when it rains or get exposed to mould
- that the back of the hotel is closed in, to shelter the insects from the elements

## Materials

Think carefully about what sort of insects you would like to attract before assembling your materials. These materials will attract the following types of bugs to your insect hotel:



Material	Bug types
Dried bamboo garden stakes, wood with drilled holes (5mm – 10mm diameter, 100 – 150 mm depth)	Leafcutter bees and Resin bees
Bunches of sticks, twigs	Ground beetles, lady beetles, hoverflies, spiders
Rotting logs	Wood-boring beetles, centipedes, millipedes, woodlice
Straw, dried grass	Lacewings
Clay/ concrete sand stuffed into a block or brick with holes poked into it (5mm – 10mm diameter, 100 – 150 mm depth)	Blue – banded bees, Teddy Bear bees, Small Metallic – green bees



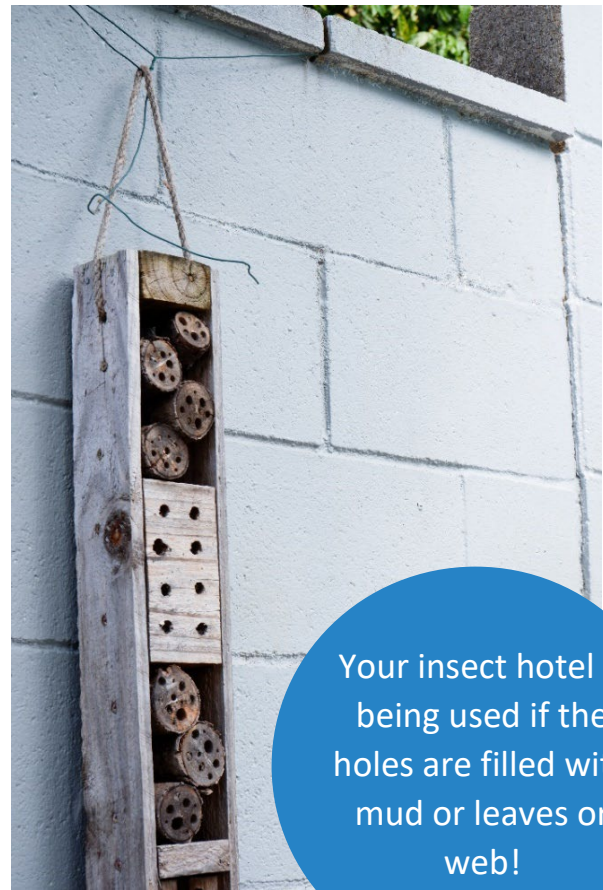
## Location

Put your insect hotel in a sheltered location in the shade, so that it doesn't get too hot in summer and is sheltered from strong winds and rain.

Your insect hotel should ideally face between north and east at about 1 metre above the ground.

## Tips

- It is better to cater your insect hotel to a smaller number of specific insects than a big "zoo" of insects
- Don't use plastic materials as they can encourage the growth of mould
- Avoid toxic adhesives and paints and limit the use of pesticides
- You can encourage insects to come to your garden by providing native plants for them to eat



Your insect hotel is being used if the holes are filled with mud or leaves or web!

Below are examples of what your insect hotel could look like.



You might like to keep it simple, like this bamboo and clay insect hotel...



...Or go crazy - creative, like this robot insect hotel!

