

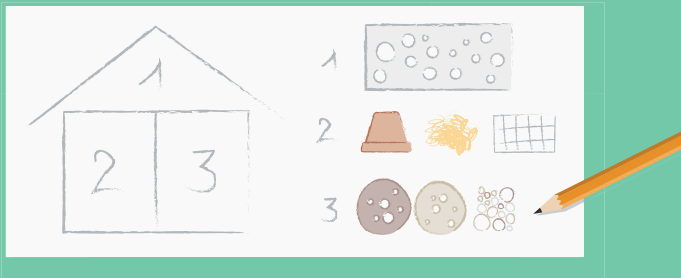


Insect hotel



Step 1:

Decide on the nesting materials and number of chambers



Every insect has different shelter needs. So first decide which type of insect you're building for. The number of chambers determines how big your hotel will be.

- Garden insect hotels: 4–6 chambers
- Balcony and patio insect hotels: 2–3 chambers
- Mini hotels 1 chamber, e.g. for bees

Beetle larvae, lacewings, ladybugs and earwigs:

- **Straw** insulates animals against the cold in winter and protects beneficial insects and their offspring from birds, etc. in the spring.
- **Pine cones** provide shelter and a place to hide, but are not very well suited for overwintering.

Native wasps and various native bees:

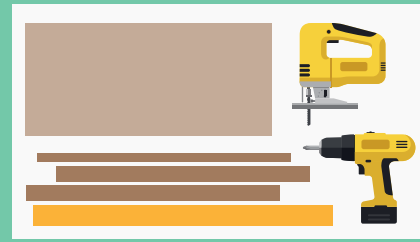
- **Tall plant stems** (e.g. canes, bamboo sticks) are perfect nesting holes. Cut them to the length you want and then stack them on top of one another. Use stems of varying sizes so different sized insects can use them.
- **Logs with holes drilled in them** provide valuable shelter for wild bees. Drill 2–10 mm holes into the hardwood of deciduous trees. Do not drill all the way through so the bees and wasps can nest deep in the hole. Drill into the cut face of the log parallel to the bark and make sure the corners are smooth.
- Prepare the **hollow bricks** in advance: Mix the water and plaster, then lay out the hollow sticks. Fill the bricks with the plaster mixture and push the sticks down into the mixture about 6 cm deep. Let the bricks dry before you put them in the tiny house.

Butterflies:

- **Fresh-cut twigs:** Butterflies like compartments covered with fresh-cut twigs (max. 5 mm thick). The twigs should be loosely attached to the compartments.

Step 2:

Build the frame

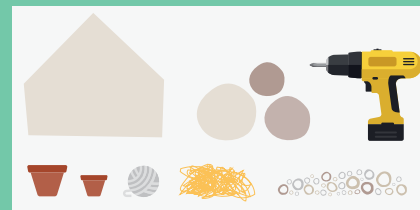


Decide on a **shape** for your **frame**: triangular or a traditional tiny house. Position the boards and shorten them as necessary. Add the back and screw or glue on the boards to complete the frame.

Tip: A little porch roof made of roofing tiles will protect your frame from the rain. The roof should extend about 5–10 cm over the frame.

Steps 3 and 4:

Create the chambers and fill the compartments

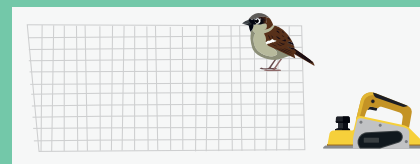


Fasten the nesting aids and shelters to the wood frame. Use hollow bricks, pipes, flower pots, aluminum cans or wooden boards to make the compartments. Place the compartments where you would like them and fasten them to the frame with screws and glue.

Then fill the individual chambers with the materials you prepared above.

Step 5:

Provide protection



To protect the insects from birds, you can cover the hotel with some wire mesh. Leave about 5 cm of space between the mesh and the nesting materials. The mesh shouldn't be too fine because the insects will need to be able to fit through it.